

Polynesian savage at the present day. The like traces of the primitive habits of the aboriginal allophyllise of the northern parts of the British mainland and the neighboring islands have been noted. On exploring, one remarkable example of the subterranean stone dwellings of the ancient population of the Orkneys,—opened by Lieutenant Thomas, R. N., and a party of the Admiralty Survey Service in 1848,—the remains of the charcoal and peat-ashes of the long-extinguished hearth lay intermingled with bones of the horse, ox, deer, and whale; and also with some rude implements illustrative of primitive Orcadian arts; while a layer of shells of the oyster, escallop and periwinkle, the common whelk, the purpura, and the limpet, covered the floor and the adjacent ground, in some places half a foot deep. Of these, the limpet, though common on the coast, formed only a very small proportion of the whole; while the periwinkle was the most abundant. The relative accumulations of the other shells,—differing as they did from the present ratio of the various mollusca on the neighboring shores,—in like manner furnish some slight index of the culinary taste of the aboriginal Briton in those long-forgotten centuries.

It is curious and instructive thus to note even so small a matter as the tastes of the rude barbarian Briton of these long-forgotten centuries, for they supply a means of comparison between the very diverse races of the British Islands in remotely ancient and modern times. The periwinkle is now annually shipped in large quantities from the Scottish coasts to supply the markets of the British metropolis; and at the recent meeting of the British Association at Dublin, Mr. Patterson read a paper before the zoological section, tending to show that such is the demand for that favorite mollusk that it is in danger of being extirpated on the Irish coasts. The quantity of *Litorina*, littoral periwinkles, shipped at Belfast during the four previous years, according to the returns of the Secretary to the Harbor Commissioners of that port, amounted in 1853 to 1,034 bags, containing 181 tons; in 1854 to 2,626 bags, or 459½ tons; and in 1855 to 2,286 bags, or 400 tons; while in 1856 it fell off to 786 bags, or 137 tons. The diminished exports of the last year have not arisen from any decrease in the demand. Such of the mollusca as are not procured for this export trade in the Bay of Belfast are principally collected on the coasts of the County of Down; but the banks from which they were formerly derived are no longer capable of supplying the market, and the deficient quantity is at present brought from Stanraer to Belfast,