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Pre-Aryan American Man.

By DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., F.R.S.E., President of University College, Toronto.

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The department of Archaeology which forms one special branch of the work of this Section of the Royal Society is ample enough with all its included subjects to occupy our whole energies; and it is still to a very large extent a virgin field. It may be legitimately held to include anthropology, ethnology, and comparative philology; and with such subjects inviting our study there is an urgent demand for immediate action. While there is time much more is required than has yet been done by Canada to rescue from oblivion the materials for ethnical study, in which our vast domain is so rich. On all hands we see ancient nations passing away. The Crees, the Blackfeet, and other prairie tribes; and still more interesting ones beyond the Rocky Mountains, including the various Flathead Tribes, the Nass, Chimpseyans, Sebassas, Stekini, and the ingenious and in some respects unique Haidas of the Queen Charlotte Islands: are all diminishing in numbers, while some of them are destined to inevitable and speedy extinction. With all of them their inherited languages and customs are undergoing important modifications by their intercourse with the immigrant whites; a large influx of Chinese also threatens a further complication of the ethnological problem; and it should no longer be left to the mere efforts of individuals, carried on without concert, and on no comprehensive or systematic plan, to rescue for future study the invaluable materials of Canadian ethnology. To the native languages especially must the inquirer into some of the curious problems involved in the peopling of this continent look for a true key to the mystery. The Government of Canada can thus far refer with some pride to the treatment of its native tribes; but the enlightened example of that of the United States in relation to the ethnology, no less than to the geology and natural history, of the wide domain embraced within their Federation, is well calculated to stimulate us to emulate them. This Section may possibly be the means of accomplishing something towards so desirable a result; but if it is to be carried out on any adequate scale it must be in concert with the Indian Department; and with the Geological and Natural History Survey of the Dominion.

In the present paper I propose to invite the attention of the Section to some consideration of the condition and relative status of the Aborigines of this continent, north of the Gulf of Mexico, not only as studied by means of the knowledge of the native tribes, acquired since the discovery of America in 1493, but in so far as we can determine their earlier condition with the aid of archaeological evidence. The student of the history of the Canadian and North American nations cannot indeed altogether overlook the undoubted fact that Columbus was not the first of European voyagers within the Christian era to explore and colonize the new world. It is a well established fact that not only did the Northmen settle Greenland in the tenth century; but that before its close they appear to have landed