

and miles from their native habitat and several hundred miles from the shore. In the Huron gravemounds of the Georgian Bay, tropical shells from the Mexican Gulf have been found.

A very strong evidence of the Indian tribes in the days of the moundbuilders, having an extended commerce which might be treated under this head, is their agricultural advancement. They cultivated the zea maize, a tropical plant, which they brought with them from the south. Tobacco also supplies us with another proof of the same sort. Although extensively used by the various tribes in all matters of ceremonial, its cultivation was altogether confined to the area of the southern states, and from that district it was brought by the more northern peoples.

I have so far, except in one or two instances, when speaking of this ancient commerce, endeavoured to confine the proof of a prehistoric commerce to the age of stone. Brief the notices of the various evidences necessarily have been, but to my mind conclusive enough to show that the earliest peoples on both continents had, during the so-called stone period, whether we divide it into two epochs or treat it as a whole, a species of commercial relationship with each other. Limited no doubt it was, but still the spirit of trade existed and showed itself under the many adverse circumstances, by which it was surrounded. These people were undoubtedly a migratory class, hunting and fishing their simple though arduous and dangerous occupation; hunting especially so. When we consider the defenceless state of early man, the inefficiency of his arms, and the foes with which he had to contend, we can hardly wonder at the want of improvement shown by him in the earlier stages of his career. The descriptions given by Palæontologists of the two most formidable enemies of man—the cave lion and cave bear—show these animals to have been no mean opponents of man, even under much more favorable circumstances than those in which they came in contact. "Man," says Professor Boyd Dawkins, "disputed with the lion; sometimes man ate the lion and often the lion ate the man."

The rudiments of art were not wanting among the neolithic men. We find many of their implements and arms richly decorated with carvings of various sorts and often polished in a high degree. In addition, pieces of mammoth tusks and reindeer horns have been discovered, having rude drawings of various subjects cut upon them.

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