

great glaciers in southern France gave the preference to bone and ivory over flint or stone, because the climatic conditions under which they lived rendered those most accessible to them; and we see in the familiar types of flint arrow-heads, stone-hammers, and the like primitive tools of savage man, both in ancient and modern times, how naturally the workman, with the same materials and similar necessities, shapes his few and simple weapons and implements into like form. As to the absence of pottery, alike among the ancient cave-dwellers and the modern Eskimos, in which Professor Dawkins finds another element of resemblance, it proves no more than that both had to work under climatic conditions which rendered clay, adequate fuel, and nearly all other appliances of the potter, even less available than flint and stone.

But the caves of the Vézère have furnished examples not only of skulls, but of complete skeletons of an ancient race of cave-dwellers, whether that of the ingenious draughtsmen and reindeer hunters or not; and had those, or the underlying débris, yielded any traces of the Eskimo type of head, there would then be good reason for attaching an exceptional value to any evidence of correspondence in arts and habits. But the cerebral capacity of this Cro-Magnon race amply accords with the artistic skill, and the sense of beauty and grace of natural form, ascribed to the ancient draughtmen; and their well-developed skulls and large bones present, in every respect, the most striking contrast to the stunted Eskimo. The strongly marked physiognomy of the former bears no resemblance to the debased Mongolian type of the latter. No doubt it may be argued with sufficient plausibility that in the slow retreat of the paleolithic race of the valley of the Vézère over submerging continents, since engulfed in the ocean; and in the vast aeons of glacial or subglacial changes which have marked their migration to another hemisphere, and their retreat to their latest home on the verge of the pole, any amount of change may have modified the physical characteristics of the race. But if so, the evidence of their pedigree is no longer producible. The Eskimo may indeed be related by descent to the men of the French reindeer period; as we ourselves may be descendants of paleolithic man; but, as Professor Geikie has justly remarked: "When anthropologists produce from some of the caves occupied by the reindeer hunters a cranium resembling that of the living Eskimo, it will be time enough to admit that the latter has descended from the former. But, unfortunately for the view here referred to, none of the skulls hitherto found affords it any support."* In truth, the plausible fancy that the discoveries of the last twenty years have tended to confirm the identification of the cave-men with the Eskimos, only requires the full appreciation of all that it involves, in order that it shall take its place with that other identification with the red man of the present day of "Dr. Dowler's sub-cypress Indian who dwelt on the site of New Orleans 57,000 years ago."

The received interpretation of the imperfect record which remains to us of the successive eras of geological change with the accompanying modifications of animal life, down to the appearance of man as an inhabitant of this world; and the deciphering of geological chronicleings as a coherent disclosure of the past history of the earth: are largely due to Sir Charles Lyell. In 1841, he visited this continent, and then estimated with cautious conservatism some of the evidences adduced for the assumed antiquity of American man. But subsequent observations led him to modify his views; and at length, in 1863, he

* Prehistoric Europe, p. 550.

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