

The Neolithic period of Europe, or the time when man in that region used weapons of ground and polished stone, is of a later date than the Palaeolithic times I have glanced at.

No such continuous history of man in America is yet known, for the subject is only now receiving the attention which has been bestowed upon it in Europe for many years, and the landmarks of the older civilization of the Old World seem to be wanting in the New. When the American Indian of this region first became known to Europeans he was still in the Stone Age, but his weapons and his arts were such as to show that he had arrived at a condition of culture equivalent to the Neolithic Age of the rude inhabitants of Europe. Discoveries have, however, lately been made which make it highly probable that there was an older and ruder age in America as well as in Europe. Dr. Abbot, the pioneer in this line of research, has found in the gravel terraces along the Delaware River at Trenton, in New Jersey, rude stone implements which far antedate the occupation of that region by the tribes known there when the continent of America was discovered. Most of the objects found were very rudely chipped and belonged to a people of very primitive habits. Within a year or two a similar discovery, consisting, however, of stone chips only, was made in the terraced deposits of Central Minnesota.

With such *buried* remains of man's occupancy of the earth our Bocabec relics do not compare, as they rest upon the surface, and are unquestionably less ancient. I have already referred to some of the geological evidences of the recent accumulation of these relics, but I may mention other features which stamp these remains as those of a recent Neolithic people. At the very bottom of these shell-heaps stone axes were found which, though rudely formed, were fashioned by grinding; and although the pottery found with these rude implements differed in pattern from that occurring in the higher levels of the shell-heaps, in other respects it showed nearly the same stage of advancement in the ceramic art.

It is somewhat surprising that there should be no evidence of forest growth on the shore of Bocabec River at the site of the village when first it was occupied by these men of the Stone Age, for a mere film of vegetable matter is all that separates the oldest

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