

Miscellaneous.

PRE-HISTORIC MAN AT THE FAIR.

The Christian World publishes a letter from Dr. Pressence, from which we give the following extracts:—There is one department of the exhibition which is of peculiar interest, and which has recently attracted much attention, and that is the pre-historic man.

It contains a collection of human skulls of all races, a large number of skeletons prepared for anatomical study, and a great quantity of bones—showing all their sinuities. It offers an opportunity for tracing the difference and resemblances of all races of men, each one being represented with its appropriate costume, which in some instances is slight in the extreme. The principal interest of this anthropological section consists in the sample illustration of that mysterious epoch in the existence of the race, known as the pre-historic age, with its three periods:—The Age of Stone divided into the Old Stone and the New, and the Bronze Age.

The Paris Exhibition contains numerous and characteristic examples of the art and implements of each of these periods, not only specimens as are to be found in France, but throughout the world, and even in America, so that we are at once permitted to see the progress of the human race, and the development of the human mind.

The exhibition has been the occasion of an important Anthropological Congress in which the collection of the most part to the transformation school, and it was certainly not without intention that the exhibition was made to comprise among the most beautiful types of the monkey tribe, as though to say: "Behold your ancestors!" It must not be forgotten, however, that this Society includes among its members some of the most eminent spiritualists, such as M. de Quatrefages, Professor of the Jardin des Plantes, who in his book on the unity of the human race has given powerful scientific refutation to the materialistic theory of transformation. A mere glance over the chosen specimens of monkeys suffices to show the great gulf which separates even the closest of them from man, in regard to cerebral conformation. Opposite the monkeys is shown one of the oldest of fossil human skulls, that which was found in the Neanderthal, in the Valley of the Rhine. Great hopes had been founded on this skull, when Dr. Schlegel, a German physician, who had been studying the development of the human brain, acknowledged that one of his best friends, a man of great distinction, had precisely the same conformation of the skull. The glass cases in which are displayed the rude implements used by man in the quarternary epoch, not to go back to more remote and disputed periods, suffice to prove that he was a being endowed with reasoning faculties capable of reflection, and understanding how to use tools so as to make weapons adapted to his advancing requirements. He was not the creature of mere ephemeral sensations; he had both memory and foresight; he could build dwellings and bequeath to his sons the accumulated treasure of his experience and his wisdom. He had begun to try and reproduce hunting scenes by rough sketches upon the bones of reindeer or aurochs; this is the beginning of art. However far we go back in the pre-historic age, we find traces of the human mind, and we find that the human mind is a religious sentiment, attested also by strange religious customs, one of the fetiches of savage tribes. We are thus brought into contact with a being unlike any other, and of whom, even in its most barbarous condition, we are constrained to say with St. Paul, "Surely he is the offspring of God."

MR. PHIPPS AND THE HEN.

A few weeks ago, my neighbor, Mr. Phipps, observed a yellow fluid of some kind issuing from the vent of a hen in the smokehouse. Upon examining it closely he ascertained that it was the yolk of an egg. For several successive days it continued to drip from the spout and Mr. Phipps was perplexed about it. He hadn't noticed that the wicker basket which had been hanging on the shingles of the smokehouse roof that would be likely to induce them to indulge in a spontaneous production of custards. He determined to watch, and on the following day he observed his Shanghai hen fly to the roof of the smokehouse, settle down right over the aperture to the water-pot, and lay an egg. Mr. Phipps had not the remotest idea what to do about it, so he let the hen lay on for several days, while he thought of a plan for discouraging her from operating in that particular spot.

One day, however, when he went out to find the hen sitting on top of the spout, manifestly with the impression that an earnest effort would enable her to hatch out the eggs she had dropped into the pipe.

This seemed to Mr. Phipps so wildly unreasonable that he resolved to prevent the hen from engaging in such a delusive undertaking. Accordingly he tried to "shoo" her off her nest. She looked blandly down at him, winked twice in a knowing way, and refused to budge.

Mr. Phipps's friend, Rogers, who lives next door, climbed over the fence and advised him to get a ladder and pull the hen off. Mr. Phipps did so, and then Rogers said that if it was his hen he would simply plug up the spout.

Mr. Phipps drove a plug in the spout and descended. As soon as he reached the ground the hen flew up and began to try to hatch out the plug. Rogers said that he thought she might perhaps be scared off, so he threw a piece of brick at her, but it missed the hen and went straight through Phipps's dining room window.

Then Rogers said that if he owned a hen like that he would stop her if he had to blow her up with powder. So Phipps got four ounces of gunpowder and packed it into the lower end of the spout, and Rogers touched it off with a match. It merely sailed out, like a young volcano, and set fire to Phipps's trousers.

Rogers then said the powder ought to have been "amped." So he put another charge in the spout, and then drove a white-pine plug in it, leaving a gun-hole for the slow-burn. The experiment was in a degree successful. There was a fearful bang, and the next minute Phipps's eccentric chicken was sailing down towards the relative constancy with a plug in her claws. She went up almost out of sight, and then she came down, down, down, and lighted squarely over the spout-hole, expressing by a cackle or two her surprise, but on the whole calm and sweet-tempered, and as resolutely disposed as ever to give her attention strictly to business.

Shanghai chicken she had real genius. He said there was only one thing to do now, and that was to turn the garden hose on her. So Phipps got out the hose, and Rogers took the pipe and played a half inch stream directly on the hen. The hen seemed rather to enjoy it, for she cackled a little in a pleasant way, and Rogers told Phipps to turn the water off while he climbed on the roof to get a better crack at her. So, while Rogers was going up the ladder, holding the pipe against his breast with one arm, Phipps, who must have misunderstood him, suddenly turned the water on again, and the stream struck Rogers in the nostrils, nearly choking him and causing him to let go his hold on the ladder, and fall to the ground. When he got up he said that a man who would own such a hen as that was, in his opinion, no better than a pirate and a pagan, and so he got over the fence and went home.

Phipps went after him and apologized, and then he asked Rogers to lend him a shot-gun so that he could kill the chicken. Rogers agreed, and he climbed back over the fence with the gun in his hand. Phipps took the gun and fired. He missed the chicken and blew the entire cupola off of the smokehouse. Then Rogers said that there were some men who knew no more about firing a gun than a tom cat knew about idleness. So Rogers took the weapon, aimed carefully, and pulled the trigger. About one shot hit the hen, and the remainder struck a cow in an adjoining lot, exciting her so that she hooked a boy and threw him over a five-rail fence. The hen flew up on top of Phipps's house and cackled as if she had laid two hundred eggs a minute for the last quarter of an hour. Phipps proposed to fire at the hen again, but Rogers earnestly intimated that if he would probably hit his wife. Phipps, who was churning milk in the cellar, then Phipps told Rogers to shoot at Rogers' did with the result that he missed the chicken and broke eight panes of glass in Phipps' garret window. Then Rogers said that Phipps must be spoiled. Rogers rushed in and grabbed the chicken, wrung its neck, and went out to the fence. As he tossed the carcass over the fence he said: "There's that indecent, infamous chicken of yours; you take it and keep it. And I give you notice that if you find some fooling around here with more such diabolical birds, hens or roosters, I'll blow your head off if I'm hung for it."

HINDOO WIDOWS.

THEY CANNOT MARRY AND ARE SUBJECTED TO HARSHNESS AND MENTAL SERVICE.

It is only the high-caste of Hindoo widows who are not allowed to marry again; the widows of the lower castes or working classes, such as the farm laborers, etc., have no such restrictions laid upon them; and it must also be observed that the higher-caste Hindoo widows are not all subjected to the same degree of hardships. The elderly widow, surrounded by her children, has comparatively much less to complain of in the treatment she receives from the members of her husband's family and the world at large than the young and childless widow, and especially she who may be termed the child widow. The child widow is indeed an object of the deepest commiseration. Her position in particular begins at an age when American children are mere school-girls; she may not have reached her teens! It is then for the first time that her husband is shaved—an operation which is repeated at short intervals throughout her life—and henceforward every effort is resorted to to prevent her appearing in public as possible. Married women blacken the rims of their eyelids, and adorn their foreheads with a colored and often a precious preparation of sand; but, in her case, these personal embellishments are strictly prohibited, as, also, is the use of articles of jewelry of every description.

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T. F. RAYMOND, PROPRIETOR.

BRIDGETOWN, AUG. 16th, 1878.

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Solicitors, Conveyancers,

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BRIDGETOWN, N. B.

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Bridgetown, Aug. 16th, 1878.

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