

palaces. The sun sinks lower still. The Alpine glow, the crystal palaces are gone, and in their stead are bleak and dreary walls, and peaks of rock—wield, flitting clouds—shadows that move about like ghosts—cold fields of snow and ice.

Zurich was an old town a thousand years ago. A half a century before the birth of Christ, tradition says, the Helvetians burned this among their other towns and villages, and started off to Gaul and Italy in search of a warmer climate and a more grateful soil. When Cæsar defeated them and compelled them to return to the Alps and rebuild their towns, Zurich was made a Roman military station and called Turicum.

Many centuries before that a numerous population inhabited the shores of this lake, whose remains reveal to us an unwritten page of history.

In the course of excavations, carried on during the winter of 1853, at Obermeilen, on the right bank of the Lake of Zurich, various utensils and weapons of stone, bone and horn, as well as fragments of pottery, were found embedded in the mud of the shore. The village school-master, Johann Aeppli, made further investigations, and soon came upon a regularly planned series of piles. He hastened to Zurich to call the attention of the learned archæologist, Dr. Ferdinand Keller, to the subject. Keller visited the spot, continued the excavations, collected the objects found, and soon hit upon the key to the mystery. He discovered that the various objects thus strangely preserved were relics of a people, who had in remote antiquity dwelt on the shores, or rather over the waters of the Swiss lakes, and who had vanished from the scene without leaving other records of their existence than those now brought to light.

The discoveries at Obermeilen were followed by similar ones at other points on the lake of Zurich, and not only on almost all the Swiss lakes, but in most of the lakes of Europe and in many marshy districts. The epoch of the prehistoric lake-dwellers was unveiled to modern gaze, and before our mind's eye we can now see the wooden huts on their pile-work foundation, with the bridges connecting the settlements with the shore; fishermen setting out in their primitive barks in search of booty, and hunters returning heavily burdened from the chase. The weapons found in the lake villages, here of stone, there of bronze, and elsewhere of iron, indicate the successive stages of civilization reached by their fashioners; while the weapons as well as the woven stuffs, the nets, tools of all kinds, potsherds, ornaments, fragments of bone, and remnants of vegetable material, indicate the various occupations of the people, the amount of manual