

ours, all possess highly interesting monuments of man's forgotten past. And, confining our attention more particularly to this section of the continent, it may interest the readers of the MINING RECORD if we consider briefly some of the salient features of the archaeology of this Province, which is not without a special interest of its own.

It is barely a century ago that the first white men set foot in this Province. Our occupation of it dates back, as it were, from yesterday; yet human possession of it goes back we know for at least two millenniums before our advent here, and how far beyond it is impossible at this point to say. Who and what the earliest inhabitants were; what kind of monuments of the past they have left behind them; to what other peoples they were related, whether to the present tribes or to others who have long since passed away, are questions, it is thought, would interest the readers of this special edition of the MINING RECORD. Such questions can necessarily be but briefly treated in an article of this kind. To write all that could be written upon them would fill volumes; for the learned societies of Europe and America have of late years spent much money and time in carrying on explorations and investigations in this region, and their agents have now brought together a large body of interesting facts, some of which are here for the first time brought before the general reader's notice.

The study of man's past has revealed nothing more clearly to us than the fact of his world-wide dispersion. From every part of the globe, no matter where one goes, comes evidence of man's presence, either now, or in the past. Had we no other proof of this great antiquity we should be warranted in assuming it from this fact alone. When this continent was first discovered populous tribes occupied the whole of its broad surface from end to end, from bleak and desolate Patagonia to the frozen shores of the Arctic Ocean, and from its eastern confines to its farthest western limits. Some of them, such as the peoples of ancient Mexico and Peru were living in a comparatively high state of civilization and culture, far higher in-

deed than that which has up to the present succeeded it under Spanish influence. Others maintained a miserable existence in the face of adverse natural surroundings, as among the degraded Patagonians in the far south; or the presence of human foes, more hostile than nature at her cruellest, as among those wretched, solitary individuals whom the early pioneers met in their journeys across the Rockies, and who looked upon the possession of the putrifying entrails of game and other camp refuse as the highest joy of their miserable existence; while between these two extremes every degree of savagery and barbarism might be found. Indeed, one of the most interesting features of the New World is the presence within it of conditions of life which have long since passed away and been forgotten in the Old. While archaeological investigations reveal to us broken, fragmentary histories of dead and by-gone races in Europe, and our historic imaginations endeavour to recall their lives and conditions and circumstances, by a study of their relics, here in America we see before our very eyes human beings living in the simplicity, the squalor and the savagery of primitive man; or attaining to that degree of pastoral culture we believe the primitive Aryan tribes had risen to before their final separation into their present great historical divisions. We can study the conditions through which early man and our own ancestors passed in the forgotten days of long ago; and, observing them as they actually exist under primitive conditions, correct the misconception and errors that our imaginations are prone to lead us into. We read in our national histories of the ancient Britons and others living in mud and wicker huts, clothing themselves in the untanned skins of wild beasts, or staining their naked bodies with the juices of plants and herbs; living upon fish or venison and such roots and wild fruits as nature deigned to bestow upon them in her bounty; but how few of us realize what life under these conditions means.

To rightly understand the condition of most of the peoples of Europe when the Roman Legions were over-running