

places. Professor Hovelacque, the distinguished representative of linguistic science in France, after describing the impassable gulf which separates the Semitic and Indo-European languages, adds that the case of these languages is the case of a considerable number of linguistic systems and then says: "The consequence of this fact is important. If, as we have shown, the faculty of articulate speech is the proper and sole characteristic of man, and if the different linguistic systems which we know are irreducible, they must have come into existence separately, in regions entirely distinct. It follows that the precursor of man, the first to acquire the faculty of articulate language, has gained this faculty in different places at the same time, and has thus given birth to many human races originally distinct." The divisions of race into which the speechless descendants of these precursors of primitive man had separated before they acquired the faculty of language are laid down by Dr. Frederick Müller. The theory of a speechless race of human precursors or of human beings like ourselves without the faculty of speech raises difficulties greater than those which it is intended to remove. So far as we have been able to learn, primitive man began life with a voice. His vocal organs may not have been very flexible, but we may assume that they were sufficient to enable him to articulate words expressing his needs. Oral utterance was the form of expression used by primitive man, based upon his physical structure, intellectual endowments and social instincts. If he had been without a voice some other method of expression would have been found as in the case of deaf-mutes, sufficiently illustrated in the persons of Laura Bridgman and Helen Keller. There was a time when man was destitute of language, but possessed the faculty of speech, and were man again to be so situated that he had no language, he would recreate language, society and arts, and develop religion.

Gesture-language was one of the forms of speech of early man, coexistent with spoken language. It is a very expressive method of communication between persons who speak the same language, aiding them in emphasizing and making clear their words and phrases, and is a useful form of speech for those who speak different languages. Primitive man would naturally and unconsciously use this as an aid to the simple language which he spoke. Drummond in his *Ascent of Man* suggested that this was the earliest form of speech, preceding spoken language, and sound-speech arose from a necessity of communication at a distance, the sound reaching further than the sign, and being independent of light. Again it is said that speech is the product of a social state already considerably advanced, and the sounds being at first simply utter-