

gical, in contradistinction to geological researches. Of this, however, there is not only no proof, but the existence of pre-Celtic races, to whom the implements and arts of the European Stone Period were assignable, had been maintained both on technological and philological grounds, before the traces of Cave-Men, or the Flint-Folk of post-pliocene ages, had been demonstrated by the geologist, from evidence derived to a great extent from the French drift, where it is overlaid by the graves and buried arts of the ancient Gaul and his Roman conqueror.

From the date of Julius Cæsar's conquests, the native population both of Gaul and the British Isles have been made the subjects of descriptive comment by some of the most observant writers. But their notices of the tribes on both sides of the English Channel, suffice to remind us, that in speaking of the Celts we are not dealing with an isolated and homogeneous people, but with diverse nations of a common race, which once filled Central Europe; and which, moreover, in the earliest period of their definite history, were the occupants of a diminishing area, encroached upon by Germanic and other nations, before the Romans stepped in to complete the changes already in progress. There were Gauls or Kelts to the south, and to the east of the Alps, to the south of the Pyrenees, to the north of the English Channel, and—according to archæological evidence,—seemingly even to the north of the Baltic sea. Among the numerous tribes of a common stock thus brought into contact with the most diverse races of Europe, we must anticipate considerable variations from any assignable type. But this contact has been of a far closer and more influential character since the fall of the Roman Empire; so that it is little more difficult to ascertain what were the specific characteristics of the ancient Gaul or Briton, than it proves to be to determine the typical attributes of the modern continental or insular Celt. Few races of European origin, for example, show less indications either of physical or moral affinity than the so-called French and Irish Celts of Lower Canada: the one warm-hearted, but irascible, pugnacious, and prone to excitement; the other gentle, impassive, and amiable to a fault. How far the common term is applicable to both will be considered on a subsequent page.

Cæsar's account of the Gauls in the sixth book of his *Bellum Gallicum* supplies the most comprehensive details we now possess in reference to their manners and religion; and to him also we owe similar