

question of the date of a geologic Period. Attempts to fix the dates of these periods have always been unsatisfactory as no reliable chronological table exists. Even the lapse of time since the glaciers began to retreat has been variously estimated from 6000 to 35000 years and these computations were both based on the recession of the Niagara Falls, one of the most reliable measures known. Measures of earlier periods are still more unreliable and estimates consequently more divergent. Dana thinks that Cenozoic time lies within 3,000,000 years. This consists of two great divisions Tertiary and Quaternary, the latter coming in with the Glacial period. Deducting 50,000 years for the latter, Tertiary time would include 2,950,000 years. Tertiary time, again, embraces three periods Eocene, Miocene and Pliocene which are estimated to have been of nearly equal lengths. If man appeared in the Miocene, as has been shown extremely probable, we can from these estimates place his Antiquity at something over 1,000,000 years.

These conclusions respecting the Antiquity of man have been based almost solely on the facts of natural science and these facts undoubtedly lead to a different view from that to be obtained from sacred or mythological literature bearing on the question. This feature, however, does not invalidate the conclusions. Up to the present century the date of creation was confidently ascribed to a period of some 6000 years ago. Progress of the natural sciences has shown such a date to be incorrect and caused a complete modification of the conception of creation. The same sciences are compelling us to a like modification of our views of Man's Antiquity and leading us to regard him as in no way excluded from the workings of the great natural laws to which other forms of life are subject.

One million years is perhaps a high estimate. It is tenable however when regarded in the light of the present theory of the place of man's origin and his migrations.

Whether these assumptions are true or false further discovery must decide. Investigators are beginning to turn in this direction and in spite of the almost insurmountable difficulties attending Arctic exploration, the knowledge already obtained from accidental discoveries gives us ground for hope that some one of the number of scientists and adventurers now exploring these regions may bring back positive evidence that will throw light on this obscure but extremely interesting question.