

us the present alone is the really small and insignificant. Giants there were in those days, Heroes too, and true inventors.

Strange too, how little we know of this stone age. How quickly has it melted, yea even vanished before the more potent reign of Iron and its conquering legions. Yes! we might safely say, that of it, while on this Continent it has come down to our own times, we know as little, as of the age in countries where it belongs to the far distant past.

Without the knowledge of the properties of Iron or how to work it, and its applicability to their many wants, the ancients used stone. Or it were better, perhaps, to say that their clumsy stone implements have been superseded by those of Iron. Hence the terms *Iron* and *Stone* ages.

It is in examining what little there remains to us of this stone age, that we may learn something of the earliest inhabitants of this metropolitan City of Canada. And really, save a cursory sketch by Jacques Cartier, it is all that we may know of them. It has been written of people, "by their works shall ye know them," nothing extensive or grand have they left. Yet groping in the mist we may stumble on a few facts in their history; and, with no other point from which to view, let us look at them through their works, few and insignificant though they be.

Truly rude, more the exercise of instinct than reason, this first use of stone. Primitive man, pressed by hunger, with the most convenient stone, slew and eat. It is related of the early Caledonians: that each carried a ball of flint; and, that it might not be lost, had it attached to a long thong. Hurling this with unerring aim he brought down his necessary prey. Thus, have we explained to us, the first use of stone. Cartier tells us, in the account of his visit to Ancient Hochelaga, that the villagers had heaps of stones piled up within their walls, for defence in case of attack.

The cultivation and use of cereals as food, early necessi-