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enhanced by the fact that he was a Christian who was not ashamed to acknowledge Christ. (Applause.)

I have much pleasure in seconding this resolution.

The resolution was put to the Meeting and carried by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN.—I will now call on Dr. Kidd.

Dr. WALTER KIDD.—On behalf of the Council and officers I beg to thank you for your resolution.

The CHAIRMAN.—It is now my pleasant duty to call on Dr. Flinders Petrie for his address. (Applause.) You will probably anticipate the nature of the subject on which he is going to address you.

The Annual Address (illustrated by lantern slides) was then delivered by Professor W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE, D.C.L., as follows :—

THE ADDRESS.

INTRODUCTION.—The essential difference between mediæval thought and modern thought is that the mediæval scholar dealt with what *ought to be* according to the premises and convictions with which he started; the modern student deals with what *is*, having learnt by bitter experience the fallacies and hopelessness of trusting to systems of theory however beautiful. The further we go with Nature the more we learn that a solution need not be *the* solution, that a deduction which may seem certain enough for the known facts, may be modified or even reversed by unknown facts not yet even imagined.

Hence we must carefully separate between the physical facts that we have to deal with, and the framework of theory into which they may be fitted. The facts must remain, however much our appreciation of them may be modified by new facts, which may contradict our suppositions. The man who argues that there can never be any solution of the facts but that which seems inevitable to him is as truly a mediævalist as Cosmas Indicopleustes.

And repeatedly we find that new materials and new views which seem to have led us completely away from the old ground, only bring us back to a different side of the past battlefield. Freewill and fatalism are likely to be just as severely felt, as harshly dominant in debate, when reached by

aggressive materialism in the twentieth century as when fought over by aggressive Calvinism in the sixteenth.

We must then never think that we have got rid of an essential question by turning to a fresh ground of research with new materials and outlooks.

Fully recognizing this limitation of our deductive powers, and knowing that no root-questions are avoided by opening a new field, it is in this spirit that I would state as simply as I can the new facts which have to be taken in account concerning man.

The view of man's nature as a scientific study can only be reached from observation; and the longer a series of observations are, the more we can draw from them. Again, the less complex the causes are, the more truly can we see the results. For both these reasons that course of civilization which is the longest and the earliest is the most valuable as material for study.

Till ten years ago we knew nothing of early civilization. In Egypt and in Greece, thousands of years of changes were entirely hidden from us, which we can now follow and compare. There has never been such an extension of the knowledge concerning man as in the last decade; for the opening of prehistoric man to our view fifty years ago gave no such complete picture, capable of joining at all points with our existing order of things, and carrying back an unbroken view of detail over nearly ten thousand years.

To clear our position it may be said that I do not attempt now to enter on arguments on chronology. That alone is an immense subject, and I cannot at this point deal with the reserves of those—if there be any present—who can conceive of all historic and geologic man being limited by 4004 B.C. or by 5503 B.C. To all who realize that such limits are the expression of partial knowledge, I would say that it is as serious to exceed the deductions from the Septuagint by a century as it is to stretch to myriads or millions of years. It is just as much a sacrifice of truth to take the shortest possible periods as the longest possible; and the only true course is to follow what seems to be nearest to the facts. Without then going into any detail, I may say that we know by records of observations the dates at 1500 B.C. within very close limits. Before that we have the skeleton of history recorded back to about 4700 B.C.; and the recent discovery that the detailed yearly annals of a thousand years were engraved in 3700 B.C. shows what a solid basis there was for writing the early history. Before the historic times all we can say is that in a large district that we have studied, the graves are certainly more than half as

numerous as those belonging to the 5,000 years of history ; and therefore to allow 2,000 years for this much less civilized period is the least that is likely.

The illustrations which were shown at the Annual Meeting dealt with four divisions of the early civilization. The mechanical ability was illustrated by the working of vases of the hardest stones, the brilliant skill in flaking flints, the pottery and its succession of forms which enable the graves to be classified into different ages, and the rise of stone working for masonry in the historic times. The artistic skill was shown from the earliest age of rude drawing which has no features, through the ivory carvings of the prehistoric age, down to the incoming of the dynastic race whose slab carvings show a far higher power which culminates in the figure of an aged king of the first dynasty lately found, a figure which has never been excelled in Egypt. The ideas and beliefs were illustrated by the great amulets of the sacred serpent to hang in the houses, and by the prevalence of four antagonistic theories of the future which belonged to different races. The power of recording was demonstrated by simple marks of ownership on pottery in the early prehistoric age, the abundance and variety of such marks, and their continuity through the later ages, until they were crystallized into an alphabetic system by the Phœnician numeration for trade purposes. Probably they were first personal, then expressed ideas, then words, and lastly syllables and letters. This system on the Mediterranean shores is far older than the hieroglyphs, which were brought in by the dynastic race ready developed, probably from the east. The hieroglyphic writing was first used only to label pictures, and during the first dynasty it develops from mere titles into a more structural form of language.

On each side of man's activities we can now trace continual fluctuation of advances and stagnations, which gradually lead from the man clad in goat skins up to the powerful rulers of a highly organized kingdom, full of technical skill and artistic powers.*

* The remainder, and principal portion of the address, consisted of a description of a large number of lantern slides thrown on the screen, illustrating the results of Professor Petrie's operations in Egypt during the past season ; the most interesting, perhaps, of the antiquities being a statuette of Cheops carved in ivory with the name legibly engraved on the statuette itself. This great monarch, it will be recollected, was the builder of the Great Pyramid, and the face of the statuette indicates that of a man of strong will, capable of carrying out so colossal a work.

The CHAIRMAN.—Ladies and gentlemen, it is my duty now—and a very pleasant duty it is—to call on Colonel Mackinlay to offer to the lecturer our thanks, as I know you will all desire, for his extremely interesting and charming lecture in which he has taken us, in this short time, through a period of some 8,000 years. I will not say anything on the subject, but will call on Colonel Mackinlay to do so.

Lieutenant-Colonel MACKINLAY.—It is my pleasant duty to propose the following resolution, that “the best thanks of the Institute be offered to Professor Flinders Petrie and to those who have read papers during the session.” You have already heard of the papers that have been read, and I think I may justly say they have been splendidly crowned by the lecture we have just heard. We have been told it is only during the last ten years that this subject has been investigated, and we have had the pleasure of hearing some of the very oldest history from one of the foremost leaders of this branch of research. I have, therefore, much pleasure in moving this resolution, which I am sure we shall pass with the greatest unanimity.

Dr. THEOPHILUS PINCHES, on rising to second the resolution, said: It is needless for me to say that I have very great pleasure in seconding the vote of thanks which Lieutenant-Colonel Mackinlay has proposed. As one who knows something of the subject, I must say that I found this lecture most interesting and instructive, and whilst listening to it and to all the wealth of information it brings, I cannot help thinking that the subject which I represent (Assyriology), with all its wealth of inscriptions, cannot furnish, by any means, the same amount of information, and, naturally, one looks forward and asks oneself whether Assyria and Babylon will ever be so fruitful. The climate, undoubtedly, was against the preservation of objects in Babylonia, but still it is possible that something may be found. These lessons that we get from such simple things as household utensils and pots—it is quite a revelation when one sees them depicted in succession of time on the screen; and when speaking of these simple things to which Professor Petrie has referred us, I certainly think of all the theories which have been brought forward, that concerning the origin of the alphabet is the most promising. We do not know, it is true, the value of these old marks which he has thrown on the screen; but I fully expect that

when their value is known we shall find that they confirm the theory that he has brought forward. (Applause.)

The resolution having been put to the Meeting by the Chairman, was carried by acclamation.

Rev. JOHN TUCKWELL.—It would not be becoming to separate, I think, without returning our very cordial thanks to the Chairman for presiding over us this afternoon. He came to fill a gap—not always a very enviable position to occupy—and he has helped us out of a difficulty, and I beg to move that our very hearty thanks be given him.

The SECRETARY.—I have much pleasure in seconding that resolution. I think we are all indebted, and certainly I am, personally, to Sir Joseph Fayrer for so kindly consenting to occupy the chair at this critical time.

The resolution was carried unanimously.