

a careful course of instruction, and became the first convert at Downside, in 1816.

The next converts were a family named Moons, who after their visit to the chapel heard the angels singing the same music, and came therefore to the conclusion that the angels were of the same faith as the papists.

Individual converts were received into the church from time to time, but no great progress was made till a church was provided in the village of Stratton. The latter days are modern and well known to most.

AN OLD GREGORIAN.

OLD DOWNSIDE MEN.

HAS it ever occurred to the dwellers in the college, as they strolled about the beautiful lawn or rambled over the picturesque country in the neighbourhood, to inquire what those old inhabitants were like who were born, lived, worked, and died in the midst of these self-same scenes, who hunted over these same Mendip Hills and whose dust is scattered every where around? Possibly but to few: still a most interesting inquiry it is. It opens out the whole question, raised by Mr. Darwin, of the "Descent of Man," and presents us with a palaeolithic study, full of fascination which well repays the time expended upon it. Much learning and research have been devoted of late years to searching out the native habits and history of these men of old, our fathers in their generation. A brief summary of the result, to which the discoveries made on the Mendip Hills have contributed not a little, may be of interest to some of the readers of the "Downside Magazine."

No traces of the existence of man on the earth, can be found in Britain or in fact anywhere, before the middle of that portion of the Tertiary period called the Pleistocene. The Pleistocene period immediately precedes in geological chronology the Pre-historic, after which we reach the period of History.

In 1872 a flint instrument was discovered by the Rev. Osmund Fisher in the lower brick earths at Crayford embedded in the *fauna* peculiar to the mid-pleistocene period. In 1872 another was found at Erith in the same bed of deposit. Both had never been disturbed and they show that man was present in the valley

of the Thames before the big nosed rhinoceros had become extinct, and before the arctic mammalia had taken full possession of the district. The presence of the remains of two animals now only found in arctic regions, the musk sheep and the pouched marmot, prove further that the Glacial period, *i.e.*, one of cold of arctic severity, which has left such traces of its existence all over the country, found man already possessing the earth.

The implements discovered belonging to this period, the mid-pleistocene, are simply flakes of flint roughly struck; they tell us that man existed then but nothing more.

The next race of men we know of, the later pleistocene, are called the *River Drift* men because their remains are found largely in river deposits. At Fisherton, near Salisbury, many of their implements have been unearthed. They consist of the flint flake, the chopper or pebble roughly chipped to an edge on one side, an oval pointed instrument intended for use without a handle, called a *hâche*, a rounded form with a cutting edge all round, which may have been used in a handle, a scraper for preparing skins, and pointed flints for boring. They show a marked improvement on the earlier flint weapons, and are those of savages, like the Australians, who lived by hunting and had no knowledge of agriculture, metals, or how to grind their stone tools to a sharp edge.

So few human bones have been brought to light belonging to this race of men, and those so fragmentary, that we can give but little idea of their physique. In 1876 part of a skull was found in the pleistocene strata at Eguisheim, near Colmar, and again at Clichy in the valley of the Somme a human skull and some bones were discovered in 1868. The skull is of the long shaped (Dolichocephalic) type, with simple sutures. The *linea aspera* of the thigh is enormously developed and the shin bone is flattened, the consequence of much exercise bare-footed. "The few fragments, however, that remain to us, prove" says Mr. Boyd Dawkins "that at this remote period man, was present in Europe as man and not as an intermediate form connecting the human race with the lower animals."¹

These early tribes probably swarmed from the plateau of Central Asia, which has so often flooded Europe with invaders. They cannot be referred to any present branch of the human species and are as completely extinct as the fauna which was contemporary with them.

The River Drift hunter of the pleistocene age was supplanted,

¹ "Early Man in Britain," p. 168.

at what period of time it is impossible to say, by another race of men quite distinct from him, called the Cave Men because they dwelt in caves and rock shelters where their remains are mostly found. They used these caves as places of periodical resort, like the winter huts of the Esquimos, and when they migrated left behind them charcoal, shewing they knew the use of fire, flint implements, and the bones of animals broken and ground, on which they fed. They cooked their food by means of hot stones called "pot boilers."

They probably obtained fire, as modern savages do, by the friction of one piece of hard wood upon another. They have not left behind any specimens of pottery, but have left various kinds of implements, arrow heads, borers, saws, needles, daggers, &c., &c., made from flint or bone. They wore clothes made of furs and skins of the various animals, reindeer, bisons, horses and others, sewn together like those of the Esquimos, and their arms and hands were protected by long gloves with three or four fingers. Their skill in sketching on bone was remarkable and several figures scratched on this substance have furnished us with some idea of the habits of the artists.

The skeletons of this race of men are very rare. One, termed the "crushed man," was found under the rock shelter of Langerie Basse. He was undoubtedly killed by the fall of rocks. He belonged to the long headed type of man, whose jaw is remarkable for its massiveness and squareness. One reason for this scantiness of human remains may be found in the fact that like the Esquimo, the cave men cared little for their dead. There is no evidence that they took the trouble to bury them, rather there is evidence that they left them to be devoured by wild beasts. In fact it is now supposed by many that the Esquimos are the descendants of these ancient Cave men.

The Mendip Hills are famous for the deserted habitations of these Cave Men. One was discovered at Hutton, near Weston-super-Mare, by miners searching for ore, who came upon a cavern the floor of which was covered with white bones. Others were subsequently discovered at Banwell, Sandford Hill, Bleadon, Goats' Hole, in Burrington Combe, and Uphill.

The vast quantities of remains discovered can only be realised by a visit to the museum of the Somerset Archæological and Natural History Society at Taunton.

The Hyæna den of Wookey Hole, near Wells, is worthy of more detailed notice because it was among the first caverns in this

country in which works of art were discovered under conditions which prove that man co-existed with the extinct mammalia.

In forming a water course for the river Axe the mouth of the cave was intersected in 1852. The workmen found close by over 300 Roman coins, amongst them some of Allectus and Commodus. In 1859 this cave was explored by Rev. J. Williamson and Mr. Boyd Dawkins. They discovered the bones and teeth of the woolly rhinoceros, reindeer, stag, Irish elk, mammoth, hyæna, cave bear, lion, wolf, fox, and horse. In 1860 they resumed their labours and came upon satisfactory evidence of the presence of man in the cave. An oval implement of white flint, of rude workmanship, one chert arrow head, two rudely fashioned bone arrow heads and various splinters of flint were brought to light. All were found near the same spot. The specimens of remains amount to many thousands. Thirty-five of them are those of men and a quantity those of the hyæna.

These facts put together enable us to form a tolerable idea of the condition of things when the cave was inhabited. The hyæna was its normal occupant and thither he brought his prey. We may suppose that he pursued the elephant and rhinoceros along the slopes of the Mendip till he drove them over the precipitous ravine, or waited till he came across a sick or disabled bear or lion unable to resist his cowardly attack. Man appeared from time to time upon the scene, a rough savage armed with bow and spear, unacquainted with the use of metals, but defended from the cold by coats of skin. Sometimes he took possession of the den and drove the hyænas out. He kindled his fires at the entrance to cook his food and frighten away wild animals. Then he went away, and the hyæna returned to his old abode. All this while heavy floods were occurring from time to time which eventually blocked up the cave with their deposits. The cold must have been very great to allow of the presence of the reindeer and the leelming. The vast quantity of animal remains buried in the caves of so limited an area as the Mendip Hills show that the district must have been well stocked with game and been a favourite hunting ground for the old inhabitants of the Downside neighbourhood.
