Report on the Department of Anthropology at the Belfast Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, 1874

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philological facts. With regard to the suggestion that the distribution of hunting weapons might be affected by local influences, it was not only the case that the guanaco was driven back by the failure of its fodder, but in Australia the sheep, by destroying the kangaroo grass, and causing other grasses to spring up, were driving back the kangaroos. It was well known to many of them, as travellers, that in various parts of the world the practice prevailed of burning forest and scrub to favour the growth of tender-growth, and it was probable that this easy destructive process always took place where pastoral tribes took possession of a district. Thus, while hunting became less necessary by the supply of other animal food, the harbour for the beasts of chase would likewise be destroyed; at the same time the cover for birds would also be destroyed. Thus weapons for the chase of small beasts and birds would go out of use, and those alone would remain which were needful against lions, leopards, or wolves terrifying the herds.

Mr. JEREMIAH remarked that what was now required to advance the study of Prehistoric Archæology was a philosophical generalisation of the results of the explorations in North and South America, with a view to a clearer comprehension of the problems presented to us by the antiquities of the northern, central, and southern divisions of the New World. He referred to the tradition that the stone arrow-head, or celt, was long considered in the British Isles to be a thunderbolt. It was Mr. Martin, in his "*Philosophical Grammar*," published in 1738, who, he believed, first gave a rational explanation of the origin of that popular error. They are also known as "elfshots" here, and in Scandinavia and other parts of Europe. He thought it important to collate the traditions relating to stone weapons; in fact, as far as our knowledge has gone, much good has already accrued to archæology. It would be interesting to know whether there was any tradition or remnant of folk-lore of this description relating to stone weapons of South America.

Mr. PARK HARRISON and the PRESIDENT also joined in the discussion, to which the author replied.

The author read the following report:

REPORT on the DEPARTMENT of ANTHROPOLOGY at the BELFAST MEETING of the BRITISH ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT of SCIENCE, 1874. By F. W. RUDLER, one of the Secretaries of the Department.

ALTHOUGH it can hardly be said that the Belfast meeting was marked by any strikingly important contribution to Anthropology, it must yet be admitted that the list of papers communicated to the department was sufficiently full and varied to fairly represent most branches of our science. After reject-

ing two or three papers which dealt with subjects beyond the scope of Anthropology, and transferring some others to sections where they might be more appropriately discussed, the committee found itself in possession of no fewer than five-and-twenty communications, giving fair promise of a successful session. Nor was this promise disappointed. During the five days on which the department sat, the crowded meeting-room day after day testified to the interest which was uninterruptedly sustained in our proceedings.

One of the lecture-rooms in the Queen's College was appropriated to the use of the Anthropologists, but it was perhaps to be regretted that this was situated at some little distance from the anatomical class-room in which the sectional committee met, so that when this body resolved itself each morning into the sub-committees representing the three departments, a general migration of the Anthropologists took place to their own rooms across the college green. It is clearly a matter of convenience to accommodate, if possible, the several departments of the section under the same roof.

Dr. Redfern, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Queen's College, Belfast, presided over the section of Biology, whilst Sir William R. Wilde, of Dublin, occupied the chair in the department of Anthropology. The list of vice-presidents of the section included, in addition to Sir W. Wilde, the names of Col. Lane Fox and Professor Rolleston as representatives of our science; whilst Mr. J. J. Murphy, of Belfast, and the reporter, acted as secretaries. The following is a list of the members of this Institute who were present at the Belfast meeting:—Sir George Campbell, Sir Walter Elliot, K.C.S.I., Colonel A. H. Lane Fox, F.S.A., Sir G. Duncan Gibb, Bart., M.D., Sir W. Vernon Guise, Bart., F.G.S., Dr. Hooker, C.B., P.R.S., Mr. Consul Hutchinson, F.R.G.S., Professor T. H. Huxley, LL.D., F.R.S., Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., F.R.S., Rev. J. McCann, D.D., Mr. M. Moggridge, F.G.S., Dr. H. Muirhead, Dr. P. O'Callaghan, F.S.A., Mr. J. S. Phené, F.G.S., Captain Bedford Pim, R.N., Dr. W. F. Ramsay, Mr. F. W. Rudler, Mr. W. Spottiswoode, F.R.S., and Mr. R. H. Tidde-
man, M.A.

It was arranged between the three departments of the section that not more than a single address from the chair should be delivered on the same day; and that during the delivery of the address in one department proceedings should be suspended in the others. In accordance with this arrangement, Professor Redfern opened the proceedings on Thursday morning with an address to Section D; Dr. Hooker on the following day delivered his discourse to the Department of Zoology and

Botany; and on the Saturday morning Sir William Wilde addressed the Department of Anthropology. In order to present a faithful record of the proceedings, it is desirable to notice the several papers in the order in which they were read, and consequently this address will be duly noticed among the Saturday's proceedings.

When the Anthropologists had assembled in their own room on Thursday morning, after the delivery of Prof. Redfern's address, the business of the department was opened by Mr. Consul Hutchinson's paper "On the Anthropology of Pre-historic Peru." It is unnecessary to enter into an analysis of this communication, as the members of the Institute will probably have an opportunity of hearing it read during the present session. The author expressed his belief that the original occupants of South America—notably those of Peru—may have been the very oldest people on the American continent. He deplored our ignorance of the history of Peru previously to the time of the Incas, and referred to the popular errors traceable to the romantic stories of the early Spanish chroniclers. Many of the prehistoric ruins were described, special reference being made to the old burial-mounds and their contents. A comparison was drawn between these mounds and those of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, and a similarity traced between the process of inhumation used by the early Peruvians and that practised in prehistoric times in Ireland. The paper was illustrated by a large number of interesting photographs, diagrams, and sketches, representing many of the ruins of prehistoric Peru, and including some of the antiquities in the author's collection, now exhibited in the Bethnal Green Museum. These diagrams, after the reading of the paper, were transferred to the temporary museum placed under Mr. E. Ray Lankester's charge. This plan was followed throughout the meeting; whenever diagrams or specimens had been used in illustration of a paper, they were transferred as soon as possible to the museum, where they might be studied at leisure, day after day, until the meeting was broken up. So obvious were the advantages of this arrangement that it is to be hoped the experiment so successfully made on this occasion may be repeated at future meetings, and that contributors of memoirs may be induced to send such illustrations as will increase the value of their communications and contribute to the success of the gathering.

Anything bearing upon the ethnology of our own islands is sure to be popular, and a lively discussion was consequently excited by Dr. Beddoe's paper "On Modern Ethnological Migrations in the British Isles." In the present day we witness an extensive migration of our people executed peaceably,

gradually, and by individuals and families rather than in mass. As a rule, these migrations take place from poor to rich districts, from hill to plain, from country to town, from ill-employed to busy centres, and from healthy to unhealthy districts. In England a constant stream of population sets towards the capital. In Scotland two currents may be traced—the one tending towards England, and the other towards Glasgow. The net result of such migrations is to strengthen the Keltic element in our large towns. Thus, Glasgow receives a rapid influx of Irishmen and Highlanders; Liverpool attracts great numbers of Irish, Welsh, and Scotch; whilst Irish blood may be found abundantly in Manchester, and in most of the colliery districts of the North of England. In London the relative number of Irishmen is not large, whilst in Bristol it probably does not exceed three per cent., and this in spite of the easy communication with Munster. In fact, the effect of mere geographical proximity is often overborne by other causes which influence ethnic migrations. In Ireland the great focus was formerly Dublin, but of late years Belfast has become the chief centre of attraction.

At previous meetings of the Association Sir Duncan Gibb had brought forward no fewer than nine examples of centenarians, whose physical condition he had personally examined. On the present occasion he read a paper "On Longevity at Five-score eleven years," in which he detailed the evidence by which he had become convinced that Mrs. Elizabeth Leatherlund, of Tring, in Hertfordshire, had attained to the age of one hundred and eleven years last April. On a careful examination of the old lady, the author had marked a general absence of senile changes in the tissues. The heart, the lungs, and other internal organs were still perfectly healthy, and the epiglottis was erect, as in the other centenarians previously examined.

As might be expected, a good deal of interest, both scientific and popular, has been excited by the two boys who have recently been brought to Italy as representatives of the Akka dwarfs described by Dr. Schweinfurth. It is alleged that these children were given by King Munsa to the Italian traveller Miani, after whose death on the White Nile they were taken on to Cairo by a Dinka soldier. At Cairo they were examined by Professor Owen, and by Professor Carniola of Milan, and were afterwards conveyed from Egypt to Italy by Professor Panceri, of Naples. A short vocabulary obtained from these boys has been forwarded to Mr. Hyde Clarke, and, at the request of the Italian Geographical Society, he has sought to determine the relations of this language. In "A Preliminary Note on the Classification

of the Akka and Pigmy Languages of Africa," Mr. Clarke gave us the result of this inquiry. He finds that the language is not related to the languages of the Bushmen, the Mincopies, the Fuegians, the Shoshoons, and other short races, but that it conforms to that of the Obongo discovered by Du Chaillu in West Africa. As the ancients had referred to pigmies in India as well as in the Nile valley, the author had made a special examination and found traces of Akka and Obongo among the Garoos, the Nagas, the Gadaba, &c. Moreover, the African types were distinctly traceable in languages related to the Carib in South America. It is evident, however, that the shorter races and their languages are mixed up with those of more powerful peoples.

In a "Note on Circassian and Etruscan," Mr. Hyde Clarke gave the result of some further researches on the affinities of Circassian with certain American languages. He found that it was closely related to the Otomi, Tarahumara, Cora, and Huasteca of Mexico. The author regarded the Etruscan as distinctly Sumirian on the evidence of its words, its grammatical forms, its numerals, its mythology, and its topographical names.

Friday was devoted, as far as possible, to papers bearing upon the Ethnology of India. After Dr. Hooker had delivered his address to the Department of Zoology and Botany, the Indian programme was opened by Mr. Drew's paper "On the Distribution of the Races of Men inhabiting the Jummoo and Kashmir Territory." The author had resided for several years in this district; and although his attention had been chiefly directed to geological studies, ethnology had by no means been neglected. Four races of Aryan origin, found in the basins of the Chinab and Jhelam rivers, were described in detail; these were the Dogras, the Paharis, the Kashmiris, and the Chibhalis. The author also noticed the Dards, whom Dr. Leitner described some time ago, and three Thibetan peoples, known as the Champas, the Ladakhis, and the Baltis. The physical features of each of these peoples were illustrated by large cartoons, and by a good series of photographs, whilst their distribution was clearly traced upon a large map, coloured ethnologically.

One of our members, Mr. M. J. Walhouse, contributed an interesting paper "On a Leaf-wearing Tribe on the Western Coast of India." During the author's long residence at Mangalore he had ample opportunity of studying the small tribe known as the Korägars. Among the peculiarities of these people may be mentioned the fact that many of the females wear screens or aprons woven of twigs and green leaves, with

which they cover the buttocks. As this covering is worn over the clothes, it is, of course, of no possible use; but it represents the survival of an ancient custom which was at one time universal in the tribe, and is said to have been a badge of servile degradation. The custom appears to be dying out, and Mr. Walhouse did well to put it on record before it becomes extinct.

Some further observations "On the rude Stone Monuments of the Khasi Hill Tribes" were contributed by Major Godwin-Austen. He described in detail the monoliths standing in the village of Nougshai, near Shillong, and the cairns in the Khasi hills, which had not been previously noticed.

It was to be regretted that engagements in other sections prevented Sir George Campbell from coming into our department until late in the day. A good audience, however, was still present to hear the excellent address which he delivered "On the Peoples between India and China." Sir George dwelt upon the Chinese characters exhibited by the Eastern tribes lying between and partly covering the Himalayas. About Darjeeling most of the people speak Thibetan languages, but exhibit decidedly Chinese features in their civilisation; the Garoos, too, hold many customs akin to those of the Chinese, and the Kookees, about whom so much was learnt by the Looshai expedition, are undoubtedly a Hindoo-Chinese tribe. Reference was also made to the Nagas and the Khasi hill tribes, and considerable amusement created by a description of the position which women occupy among the Khasis. The woman stands at the head of the family; property descends in the female instead of the male line; and in fact the positions of male and female are completely reversed, the woman enjoying full social rights, but at the same time taking the burden of all the work.

After Sir G. Campbell's address had been delivered, a paper was taken "On the Agaw Race in Caucasia, Africa, and South America," by Mr. Hyde Clarke. The author gave a detailed account of this family of languages, as one which denoted a general migration throughout the world. After examining the Abkhass of Caucasia, he passed to the Nile region, and compared the language of the Agaw with that of the Falasha, or Black Jews, whilst in India he referred to the Kajunah and Gadaba as being possibly allied. Then tracing the migration across the Pacific, he showed that the language is widely spread, under the names of Guarini and Omagna, in Brazil and Paraguay. Finally, he suggested that some of the earlier river names, both of the old and the new world, may be referred to the Agaw.

Whilst Saturday was more or less of a holiday to several of the sections, it was one of the busiest days to the anthropologists. It was indeed on Saturday morning that Sir William Wilde delivered the address which, in the usual order of things, would have been given at the opening of the proceedings. After paying a graceful tribute of respect to Professor Phillips, to whom Anthropology, like most other sciences, was indebted, Sir William touched lightly upon several subjects of interest to anthropologists, such as the probable existence of an age of copper prior to that of bronze; the latitude with which the term "prehistoric" is used; the educational value of museums, and the necessity of arranging every collection according to some scientific plan. Turning from these prefatory observations, Sir William addressed himself to the task of tracing the history of the peoples who have successively occupied Ireland, and the representatives which they have left in the present population. When prehistoric man first set foot on the Land of Erin it is of course impossible to say, but Sir William believes that it was not until after the extinction of the mammoth and the reindeer, probably of the musk-sheep, and perhaps of the "Irish elk." Much of the early history of Ireland, as recorded by annalists, is of a very legendary character; but Sir William believed that the story of the Grecian hero, Partholon, who is said to have landed in Dublin Bay and occupied the Hill of Howth, has received striking confirmation by archæological investigations in the locality. Passing over the Femorians, the Nemedians, and other invaders whose names figure in the early annals of Ireland, Sir William proceeded to describe the Firbolgs, the Tuatha-da-Dannans, and the Milesians; three peoples who are said to have successively conquered and occupied Ireland. He described in detail the physical and social characters of those ancient peoples, as recorded by the Irish annalists, and expressed his opinion that they all belonged to a common Keltic stock, their modern representatives being found in the Irish-speaking population of the present day. Sir William also referred to the ethnological influence exerted upon the Irish by the incursions of the Norsemen, and by the subsequent Anglo-Saxon invasion; and coming down to more recent times, alluded to the effect of the English and Scotch settlers in Ireland, especially in the province of Ulster.

At the conclusion of this interesting address a general exodus was made from the anatomical lecture-room, in which it had been delivered, to the anthropological meeting-room, where the Rev. Canon Hume, of Liverpool, proceeded to discourse upon the "Origin and Characteristics of the People in Down and Antrim." In tracing the history of the people who occupy

both sides of the valley of the Lagan, he passed over the early history of the district, and, commencing with the plantation of Ulster, showed the positions taken up by the three great elements of the population, the English, the Scotch, and the Irish. The manners and customs of these people were compared and contrasted, and the origin and distribution of certain local and personal names were traced. Attention was directed to the language of the district, which, down to 1820, had been three-fold, and to the distribution of religious creeds, a subject which was illustrated by a body of statistical information. Finally, the Canon sought to show that the rivalry caused by these various elements of population had not been an unmixed disadvantage to the district.

Following immediately upon the discussion of this paper came another communication of much local interest by Mr. Hyde Clarke. In a "Note on the River-Names and Populations of Hibernia, and their relation to the Old World and America," the author showed that reference to a Keltic, or even to a Phœnician origin was insufficient to explain many of the Irish river-names. In fact, the forms of such names in these islands are not confined to the West, but occurred in ancient India, and elsewhere. Thus the *Senus* (*Shannon*) may be compared with the *Sinnus* of Italy, the *Arsinos* of Greece, and the *Sonus* of India. Moreover, many of the British and Irish river-names may be strictly paralleled with certain South American names; for example, the *Senus* conforms with the *Sinu* of New Grenada. Such words, so far from being strictly Keltic, must be referred to a widely-spread system of nomenclature common throughout the ancient civilised world, and Mr. Clarke has been led to refer them to that early period of culture represented by the Sumir and Accad of Babylonia, which he distinguishes as the Sumirian.

Most of the communications brought forward on Monday bore upon questions of Prehistoric Archæology. "A glimpse of Prehistoric Times in the North of Ireland" was the title of the first paper; a paper in which Mr. W. J. Knowles, of Cullybackey, described a recent find of worked flints at Port Stewart, in the co. Derry. The objects were obtained from some pits hollowed out by the wind among the sand-hills near the mouth of the river Bann. Mr. Knowles had collected great numbers of scrapers and arrow-heads of flint, hammer-stones of quartzite, and fragments of coarse pottery, associated with the bones and teeth of the horse, the ox, and the dog, and with marine shells of recent species. These objects have been derived from certain blackened layers, representing the old surface on which the flint-using people once lived, and which is now covered with

deposits of sand from ten to thirty feet in thickness. The flint implements appear to have been fashioned out of rolled flints collected on the shore; but the author thinks it likely that mining operations were carried on in the hard chalk, in order to obtain flint for the manufacture of implements and weapons; and from the fact that the chalk in Ireland is confined to the north-eastern corner, it seems probable that this district was the chief centre of Irish flint-working.

In continuation of a subject brought forward at Bradford, Mr. Phené read a paper "On an Age of Colossi," illustrating his subject by a large collection of beautifully-executed drawings and photographs. The author adduced a number of illustrations of similar customs among the Egyptians, the early inhabitants of America, and the Chinese, and argued in favour of the common origin of these widely-separated peoples. Drawing a parallel between the colossal monuments along the banks of the Nile and those of the Mississippi valley, he suggested a relation between the religious ideas of the early inhabitants of the two countries. In China we find, instead of human colossi along the margin of rivers, huge figures of animal forms bordering the sinuous roads which lead to the tomb-temples. Attention was called to the Wilmington giant, mentioned by Mr. Phené last year, and to some other human figures of colossal proportions in our own islands.

Bearing upon this subject was another paper by Mr. Phené, entitled "On Natural Mythology, and some of the incentives to its adoption in Great Britain and Ireland." The author cited a number of instances of the mythological impersonation of natural objects, and exhibited drawings of rocks in various parts of the world, which exhibit accidental shapes curiously suggestive of the human face. He conceived that veneration for these natural objects would lead to the selection of their localities for the celebration of religious rites, and for the burial of the dead; and he believed that these semblances of the human form would ultimately come to be identified with the dead, and the locality would thus be regarded as the abode of some divinity.

Reverting to the papers of local interest, we may note a communication from Mr. W. F. Wakeman, "On Irish Crannogs and their Contents." The word *crannog* (connected with the Irish *crann*, a tree) is applied to those islands, altogether or partly artificial, which have been inhabited in many of the Irish lakes. The crannog was either oval or circular in form, and the margin was strongly staked with piles of timber, whilst the whole was enclosed by rows of palisading for purposes of defence. A loghouse, or more than one, might generally be found

within the enclosure. Wooden boats, stone and bronze implements, and coarse pottery were commonly found in these islands, and they have also yielded vast quantities of animal remains; thus, not less than 150 cart-loads of bones were obtained from a crannog at Lagore, near Dunshaughlin, in the county Meath. These bones, having been submitted to Professor Owen, were found to represent the *Bos longifrons*, the pig, red-deer, sheep, goat, dog, horse, and ass. It is clear, from the character of some of the relics, that the crannogs may be as old as the neolithic and bronze ages; but it would appear that they continued to be occupied to a much later date, and many of these secluded island-dwellings have down to modern times been the favourite localities for the distillation of *potheen*.

A general account of the "Distribution of Worked Flints in the Counties Antrim and Down" was given by Mr. William Gray, and illustrated by a large number of specimens. The author defined the various types of implements, and noted the special localities within this area where each form had been discovered. As secretary of the Belfast Naturalists' Field Club, Mr. Gray was in possession of much local information, which was freely given to our members. It would, indeed, be a flagrant injustice to the members of this club to omit mention of the valuable aid which they rendered to the Association in general, and of the liberality with which they distributed an excellent Guide-book, prepared for the occasion by several members of the club, and containing much local scientific information, including chapters on Ethnology and Archæology. The club also deserved well of the anthropologists for bringing together an interesting collection of Irish antiquities, temporarily exhibited in the Ulster Hall, to which members of the Association were freely admitted. Nor should it be forgotten that the Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society distributed copies of a catalogue of skulls, and casts of skulls, collected from various Irish sources by the late Mr. John Grattan, and now the property of the society, in whose museum they are exhibited.

On Tuesday, the last day on which the Anthropological department sat, Sir William Wilde was unavoidably absent, and the chair was occupied during the day successively by Sir John Lubbock, Colonel Lane Fox, and Sir Duncan Gibb. The proceedings commenced with Colonel Fox's report "On the Anthropological Notes and Queries for the Use of Travellers." It will be recollected by our members that this committee was originally appointed at the Brighton meeting, and that at Bradford it was re-appointed, with a grant of £50 towards the expense of publishing the work. Colonel Lane Fox laid before the Belfast meeting some advance copies of the neat little

volume which contains these instructions, of which he gave a succinct analysis. It is satisfactory to know that the committee has been re-appointed, with a grant of £20 to cover certain additional expenses which are likely to be incurred by a larger issue than was originally contemplated. We may fairly expect that this little volume will soon be widely distributed to our consular agents, naval officers, missionaries, and other travellers, from whom it seems likely that much useful information will thus be obtained on subjects which might otherwise escape observation.

A paper which had been read in the Geological section was fairly brought into our department by Mr. R. H. Tiddeman, relating as it did to the discoveries in the Settle Caves. As the human fibula, which formed the principal object of discussion in this communication, has already been brought before the Institute by our President, it is unnecessary to make further allusion to it; but it is gratifying to know that the work of the Settle Cave Exploration Committee will be continued, and that the Association has aided it by renewing the grant of £50. In connection with this subject it may be remarked that the committee for exploring Kent's Cavern was also re-appointed, and that a grant of £100 was voted for the continuation of their useful work.

One of the secretaries of the department, Mr. J. J. Murphy, offered "Some Remarks on Mr. McLennan's Theory as to Primitive Marriage." Whilst admitting that the institution of marriage might be traced back to the practice of bride-stealing, the author differed from Mr. McLennan in believing that the impulse to this theft arose, not from the scarcity of women consequent upon the practice of female infanticide—a practice which would tend to the extinction of the tribe who followed it—but partly from the desire of each man to possess a wife of his own, which in primitive times could only be the result of capture, and partly to an instinctive impulse to mix the race. The paternal authority introduced by marriage would give social cohesion to the tribe, and thus secure for it an ascendancy over neighbouring tribes, which would tend to the dissemination of its customs.

A paragraph had appeared in the local papers to the effect that a meeting would be convened to discuss the advisableness of establishing a Psychological department or sub-section, or at least a Psychological society in semi-official relation with the Association. This movement originated with one of our members, the Rev. Dr. McCann, of Glasgow, who had applied to the chairman of the Anthropological department for the use of our rooms in Queen's College for the purpose of holding the

meeting. As it was clearly beyond the power of our committee to grant this request, it was decided that the best way of giving publicity to the subject would be by reading a paper in our own department. Accordingly Dr. McCann brought forward a communication "On the Methods of a Complete Anthropology," in which he defined this science as the study of all the phenomena of man, and urged upon anthropologists the necessity of paying greater attention to mental science. Whilst admitting that psychological subjects enter to some extent into our programme, the author maintained that sufficient opportunity was not afforded for men of opposing schools of thought to discuss the points of difference between them. The subsequent discussion seemed to show that the general feeling of the meeting was against the establishment of any additional subsection, but that the Anthropological department, as at present constituted, was competent to receive and discuss all papers on scientific psychology, excluding, of course, theological controversy.

It is to be hoped that papers of solid merit on psychological subjects, treated scientifically, may in due time be received through the aid of our Psychological Committee; and that we may thus show that the Institute, at any rate, has not lost sight of this phase of our many-sided science.

Our former director, Mr. C. Staniland Wake, contributed a suggestive paper "On the Origin of the Moral Idea." Although it is true that among even the lowest savages such actions as theft, murder, and adultery are regarded as crimes, yet they are not considered as "immoral" in the sense in which that term is understood by us, since it is only under certain conditions that such actions meet with disapproval. According to the author, the fact that these actions are regarded as wrong may be traced to the idea of personal right arising from the activity of the instinct of self-preservation. Interference with acquired property would be resented as wrong, and the idea of right connected with such property might eventually be transferred to others possessing similar property. The "rights of the dead" were recognised by all primitive peoples, and the neglect of these rights would incur the displeasure of the inhabitants of the spirit-world. If it came to be supposed that theft, adultery, murder, and the like were displeasing to the spirits, these actions would soon be viewed as immoral. The author believed that the active virtues, such as benevolence, which would not appear until after the development of the negative virtues, might be traceable to the maternal instinct, and this in turn to the sexual instinct, which accompanies that of self-preservation in animals of even the lowest grade. The

union of these instincts, according to the author, formed the true basis of morality.

In a paper "On the Degeneracy of Man," the Rev. J. Edkins, of Peking, laid down the postulate that whilst civilisation tends to advance on continents it degenerates on islands, and, consequently, we may expect to find races inhabiting continents to be more highly civilised than those on islands at a great distance from the mainland. Assuming Asia to have been the birthplace of the human race, the writer sought to show that the inhabitants of Polynesia, America, and Africa were degraded Asiatics, whilst Europeans were developed Asiatics. Illustrations which the author believed lent support to his argument were drawn from various parts of the world, but especially from China; and his familiarity with this country, its people, and its literature, gave considerable value to his remarks on the history of Chinese civilisation.

Last on the list of papers was a note from Mr. Hyde Clarke "On the Phœnician Inscription of Brazil." Reasons were given for doubting the authenticity of this inscription from internal evidence. It seems most improbable that King Hiram should have despatched an expedition to America from Eziongeber, on the Red Sea. A knowledge of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, Australia, and North and South America, might be found in the earliest stages of learning in Babylon, and was distinctly taught in the doctrine of the Four Worlds by the School of Pergamos. This knowledge lingered in traditions among the Greeks and Romans, and was accessible to the Phœnicians. It seemed, therefore, probable that Hiram would have sent his expedition from Tyre or from Spain, rather than from the Red Sea.

The preceding analyses of the papers read at Belfast, though brief, sufficiently indicate the general character of the proceedings. It is matter of congratulation to the Institute that the more important of the papers were contributed by our own members, and, indeed, it is from their exertions that the department must always gather its chief elements of strength. It is, therefore, to be hoped that a greater number of our members will seek to forward the interests of the department, and, consequently, of the science which it represents, by the contribution of suitable memoirs, and, if possible, by their personal attendance. But if the last meeting, labouring under the disadvantage of distance from the metropolis, was sufficiently supported to maintain its position and popularity, it may be fairly anticipated that a yet fuller measure of success will attend the Bristol meeting of 1875.