

Cornwall, and in Wales where some of the great Coal-measure, metalliferous, and slaty regions lie—there are busy centres of population, where the operations are often directed by, and the manual labour connected with the mineral products is well done by the original Celtic inhabitants.

It is interesting to go back a little and inquire what may have been the condition of our country when man first set foot upon its surface. We know that these islands of ours have been frequently united to the Continent, and as frequently disunited, partly by elevations and depressions of the land, and to a great extent, also, by denudations. When the earliest human population of which we have any traces came, Britain was doubtless united to the Continent. Such is the deliberate opinion of some of our best geologists, and also that these pre-historic men inhabited our country along with the great hairy Mammoth, the Rhinoceros, the Cave Bear, the Lion, the Hippopotamus, and many modern animals—and perhaps, in pre-Glacial times, they travelled westward into what is now Britain from the Continent, along with these extinct mammalia. The country was then most probably covered by great forests, swamps, and peaty flats, unless it may have been that the Chalk downs and the higher mountain-tops were bare.

But in times much later, denudations and alterations of level having taken place, our island again became disunited from the mainland: and now, with all its numerous firths and inlets, its great extent of coast, its admirable harbours, our country lies within the direct influence of that Gulf Stream which softens the whole climate of the West of Europe, and we, a people of mixed race, Celt, Scandinavian, Angles, and Norman, more or less intermingled in blood, are so happily