

wild boar, the *urus*, the bear, the wolf, and the red deer. The traces of these old scenes are still in part preserved to us. From the lakes and peat-mosses are sometimes exhumed the canoes, stone celts, and other implements, as well as the ornaments of the early races, along with the trunks of oak and pine that formed the ancient forest, and bones of the animals that roamed through its shades. It is from such records that we know both what used to be the aspect of the country and how it has come to be so wholly changed.

It is a common opinion that the peat-mosses of Scotland are of a comparatively modern date—not older, indeed, than the Roman invasion, because ‘all the coins, axes, arms, and other utensils found in them are Roman.’ But these relics are better understood now than they formerly were; and though in some cases their Roman date may be beyond doubt, they are admitted to belong generally to the earlier time, known to the antiquary as the Bronze period. Their evidence, therefore, cannot prove more than that the mosses in which they have been found may be later than the time when the natives of this country fashioned their implements of bronze. The occurrence of the antiquities in the peat is obviously of itself no proof that the peat is not actually very much older than they. They may, in fact, have been dropped on the moss when it was in a soft, boggy condition, and so have sunk to some depth beneath the surface. It would require not a little careful observation to show conclusively that the portion of the peat lying above such remains was really formed after they were left there by their human owners. If, however, the remains occur not in the substance of the moss, but below it, on what was once a soil, or a lake-bottom, and if they are of such a kind, or in such a position, as to show or to make it