

separate stones could be obtained of such a size as to be capable of remaining fixed by their own weight. Sometimes this effect is produced by means merely mechanical, as in the case of the construction of the larger circle of Stonehenge; where the upper extremity of two contiguous perpendicular stones, being pared away so as to form what is called a *tenon*, is let into a corresponding cavity called a *mortise* cut into each extremity of the horizontal stone that unites them.

As such Cyclopean masonry would be far too expensive for common purposes; and as the labour and expense of uniting together, by cramps of iron or other mechanical means, the very great number of stones requisite for the construction of even a small building, would be endless; we at once see the importance of any medium that will fully and readily effect that union, without much expense of time or money: and how completely the substance called *mortar* answers the intended purpose, the slightest observation will make manifest. As the employment of this useful substance appears to have existed antecedently to history, it is not worth while to spend any time in conjecturing how it was first discovered: but it is quite in unison with the intention of the present treatise to observe, that, of the three materials of which it is principally made, namely lime, sand, and