

above mentioned power of perception in the human mind, that the instruments and arts of uncivilized life, observable at all periods of history and in all parts of the world, have such a general resemblance ; although, in the construction of the one, or the exercise of the other, there cannot have been any communication of knowledge. Compare, for instance, the stone arrow-heads and axes of the ancient Celtic nations, with the similar instruments of the inhabitants of those islands of the Pacific Ocean which were not discovered till the last century. The following fact, and accompanying remark, may be mentioned, in illustration of the present part of the subject. Captain Beechey, in describing a dead whale which had been wounded by an Esquimaux harpoon, having “ a drag attached, made of an inflated seal skin, which “ had no doubt worried the animal to death,” adds this pertinent observation. “ Thus, with “ knowledge just proportioned to their wants, “ do these untutored barbarians, with their slender boats and limited means, contrive to take “ the largest animal of the creation.” *Voyage to the Pacific*, p. 270 <sup>c</sup>.

<sup>c</sup> The same author observes, in a short sketch of Upper California, that the natives cultivate no land, but subsist entirely “ by the chase and upon the spontaneous produce of the earth ; “ acorns, of which there is a great abundance in the country, “ constituting their principal vegetable food. Of these acorns “ they procure a supply in the proper season ; and, after having