

Thus we appear conducted to the conclusion that Yorkshire contains evidence of two ancient periods, during which migrations of plants and animals happened from the continent of Europe, bringing to us Scandinavian and German forms of life; that these were separated by a period of oceanic overflow and glacial temperature; and that since the last migration—which brought our Germanic flora and fauna—the German Ocean has been formed. If we carry out the inquiry with reference to the south of England and to Ireland, we shall find reason to admit that since that migration, the Straits of Dover have been cut, the Irish Channel excavated, and even more extensive alterations in physical geography occasioned*.

To complete the series of life in Britain, Teutons followed the archaic flora and fauna from Scandinavia and Germany, and settled in a region full of the productions of the country they had quitted; even as—to continue the analogy—the Belgæ followed the Gallic flora to the south-east of England, and the Iberi reached the southern districts of Ireland which had already received the plants of the Asturias. At what point of post-glacial time the advent of man happened we cannot say. He has left no monuments in the earliest of the deposits of even this the latest geological period. Remains of men do occur in the more recent deposits of this period, but such facts do not appear sufficient to determine when the human race first penetrated to the far west.

Nothing yet positively ascertained by science forbids the conjecture that the fathers of the British race may have come by land; that coracles and canoes may have been the earliest vessels which they navigated; and that they might justly call themselves, as Cæsar says they did, “aborigines,” in comparison with the mercantile settlers of later days.

We may contrast with this the popular tradition or bardic invention which brings Hu the mighty, over the hazy sea, from

* See Prof. E. Forbes “On the Geological Relations of the existing Fauna and Flora of the British Isles.”—*Mem. Geol. Survey*, vol. i.