

It is, however, more than probable that the age of Agricola holds but a midway place between the present time and the time in which Scotland first became a scene of human habitation. Two great periods had passed ere the period of the Roman invasion,—that earliest period now known to the antiquary as the ‘*stone age*,’ in which the metals were unknown, and to which the flint arrow-head and the greenstone battle-axe belong; and that after-period known to the antiquary as the ‘*bronze age*,’ in which weapons of war and the chase were formed of a mixture of copper and tin. Bronze had in the era of Agricola been supplanted among the old Caledonians by iron, as stone had at an earlier era been supplanted by bronze; and his legionaries were met in fight by men armed, much after the manner of their descendants at Sheriffmuir and Culloden, with broadsword and target. And it is known that nearly a century and a half earlier, when Cæsar first crossed the Channel, the Britons used a money made of iron. The two earlier periods of bronze and stone had come to a close in the island ere the commencement of the Christian era; and our evidence regarding them is, as I have said, properly of a geologic character. We read their history in what may be termed the *fossils* of the antiquary. Man is peculiarly a tool-and-weapon-making animal; and his tools and weapons represent always the stage of civilisation at which he has arrived. First, stone is the material out of which he fashions his implements. - If we except that family of man which preserved the aboriginal civilisation, there seems never to have been a tribe or nation that had not at one time recourse to this most obvious of substances for their tools and weapons. Then comes an age in which stone is supplanted by the metals that occur in a native state,—*i.e.*, in a state of ductility in the rock,—such as copper, silver, and gold. Of these, copper is by much the most abundant; and in all