

Archæologists accordingly divide prehistoric time into three ages: 1. The AGE OF STONE; which was subdivided into the *Palæolithic* or rough-stone epoch, and the *Neolithic* or polished-stone epoch; 2. The AGE OF BRONZE; and 3, the AGE OF IRON. Within certain geographical limits these three ages in the progress of culture are consecutive. But it must not be supposed that they mark periods in the history of man at large. The Age of Stone is long past in Europe; but it prevailed still in the Hawaiian Islands when discovered by Captain Cook; and still prevails among the Indians of America.

Gathering together the numerous facts which supply information concerning the primeval inhabitants of Europe, we are able to set the following inferences in order: When man first made his advent in Europe, that continent was still the abode of quadrupeds now long extinct. The caverns were shared with man by the Cave Bear, the Cave Hyæna, and the Cave Lion. These gradually gave place to gigantic Herbivores—the Hairy Mammoth, the Hairy Rhinoceros, and the Reindeer. The Mammoth roamed in herds over the whole of Europe, Northern Asia, and North America (Talk XXVII). The Hairy, or Two-horned Rhinoceros in company with another two-horned species, thundered through the forests or wallowed in the jungles and swamps. The rivers and lakes of Southern Europe were tenanted by the hippopotamus and the beaver. Three kinds of wild oxen, two of which were of colossal strength, and one of these was “maned and villous like the Bonassus,” grazed with the marmot and wild goat and chamois upon the hills and plains which skirt the Mediterranean. The musk-ox and the reindeer browsed in the meadows of Perigord, in the south of France, while a gigantic elk ranged from Ireland to the borders of Italy.

From similar evidences, we learn that primitive man in America was also the contemporary of quadrupeds now long extinct. Beneath the lava of California, the bones of the mammoth and mastodon and the broad-faced ox lie mingled with the bones and implements of man. East of the Rocky