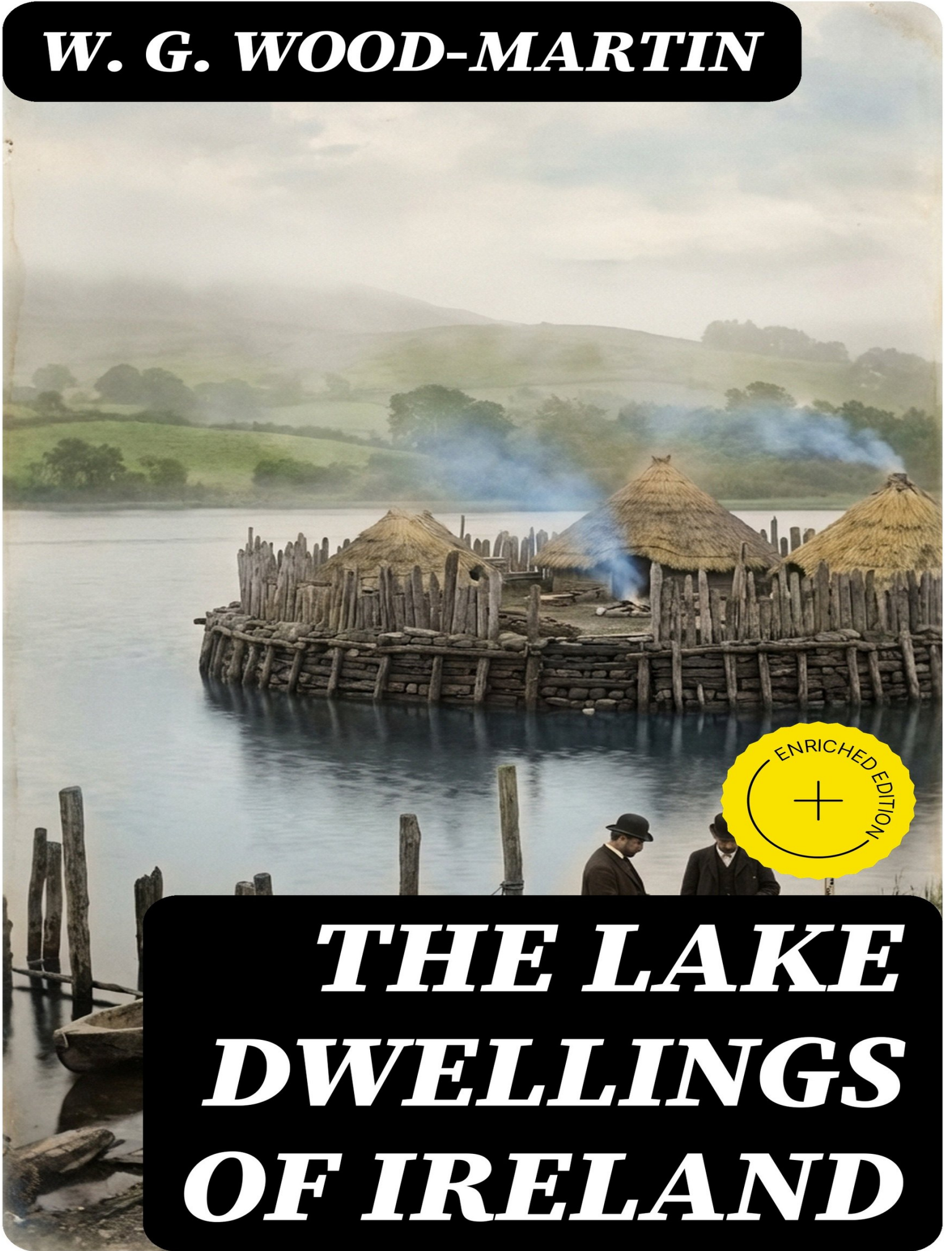


W. G. WOOD-MARTIN



***THE LAKE
DWELLINGS
OF IRELAND***

W. G. WOOD-MARTIN



***THE LAKE
DWELLINGS
OF IRELAND***

W. G. Wood-Martin

The Lake Dwellings of Ireland

**Enriched edition. Or ancient lacustrine habitations of
Erin, commonly called crannogs**

Introduction, Studies and Commentaries by Cameron Price

EAN 8596547036104

Edited and published by DigiCat, 2022



Table of Contents

[The Lake Dwellings of Ireland](#)

[Memorable Quotes](#)

[Notes](#)

THE LAKE DWELLINGS OF IRELAND

Main Table of Contents

PREFACE.

LIST OF PLATES.

ERRATA.

LAKE DWELLINGS. PART I.

LAKE DWELLINGS. PART II.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.


PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

INDEX.



PREFACE.

[Table of Contents](#)

 The object the writer has in view in this Publication is to place on record the remarkable discoveries made in a department of Archæology hitherto almost unnoticed in Ireland, except in the Proceedings, Catalogues, and Journals of various learned Societies. So far back as 1861 a writer remarked that such a work would be “a real boon to archæology,” yet in the interval none has appeared. The cause is not far to seek. A publication treating of the habits and social economy of long-forgotten generations is little calculated to gain a rapid foothold with the general public, by whom the study of the past may probably be considered dull as well as useless reading. To many, however, it proves most interesting to observe—despite widest variations of climatic conditions—the great similarity of the ways and habits of man while in a rude uncultivated state—acting as it were by a common instinct—and again to trace his upward progress towards civilization. A wide tract in this field of archæological research is fortunately opened up by a comparison of the Irish Lake Dwellings and their “finds” with those of other countries, more especially with the discoveries brought into

such prominent notice by Keller in Switzerland, and Munro in Scotland.

To the late Sir William Wilde belongs the honour of first drawing general attention to the water habitations of Erin; his labours have been ably followed up by W. F. Wakeman, who has so largely contributed to the *Journal of the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland* both Papers and Drawings illustrative of the subject. In the present work, Kinahan, Reeves, Graves, Wilde, and other specialists, have been freely quoted, as evidenced in the text; in short, the observations of every author have been utilized, provided they touched on points that could tend in any degree to elucidate the subject under consideration. "A dwarf on a giant's shoulders sees further of the two": thus the writer, standing in this line of investigation on the eminence created by his predecessors, may perhaps be enabled to lay before his readers a distinct and comprehensive view of the Ancient Lake Dwellings in Ireland. Recent discoveries and new matter will be found in these pages; but the special intention has been to collect carefully all the information hitherto furnished by the explorers of Irish Lake Dwellings, and to present that information in a condensed form, "an abridgment of all that is pleasant," so as to render it acceptable to archæologists, and perchance agreeable to the general reader, who, not having had his attention previously directed towards the subject, can scarcely be supposed willing to explore the voluminous records of scientific societies in search of items connected with the question of lacustrine remains in Ireland.

This Publication may, perhaps, help to diffuse more generally the knowledge already possessed, so that when fresh discoveries are made in any new locality increased care may be devoted to the exploration; for every artificial island is not necessarily of remote antiquity, and the most careful examination is essential before arriving at a decision respecting the probable period of the primary construction of a crannog. It would be fortunate indeed should these pages excite sufficient attention to prove, even remotely, the cause of having the various relics indicative of the social economy and industries of the inhabitants of our ancient “water-towns” arranged systematically in the new Museum of the Science and Art Department, now in course of construction in Dublin. The facility thus afforded of studying these antiquities—some of them safely protected during untold centuries by their covering of peat and water—could not fail to lead to a clearer comprehension of the real condition of ancient culture and civilization in Erin.

The Council of the Royal Irish Academy most generously permitted for this work the use of all the woodcuts in their possession illustrative of lacustrine remains, and the same favour was accorded by the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland, through the Secretary, the Rev. James Graves.

Plate VIII. and figures 18, 27, 57, 129, 188, 196, 197, and 216 were granted by the Council of the Royal Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland; figures 206 and 207 by the Society of Antiquaries of London, together with plate III. taken from *The Archæologia*; figures 6, 7, and 8, by the Anthropological Society; figures 214 and 215 by the well-

known antiquary, John Evans; [plate XXXVIII.](#), by W. T. Lockwood; and by permission of Robert Mac Adam figures [126](#), [147](#), and [148](#), are reproduced from the *Ulster Journal of Archæology*. As far as practicable, every hitherto published illustration bearing on the subject was applied for, and, with but one exception, most kindly granted.

Much valuable information was furnished by W. F. Wakeman, who has also drawn most of the illustrations, their character and expression being well carried out by the engraver, William Oldham.

CLEVERAGH, SLIGO,
October, 1885.

LIST OF PLATES.

Table of Contents

LAKE DWELLINGS OF IRELAND.

PLATE.		PAGE
	FRONTISPIECE.—Irish Lake-dwelling of the isolated type.	
I.	Crannog Hut, Kilnamaddo. Restored from existing remains,	39
II.	Crannog Hut discovered at Inver, Co. Donegal. Drawn from the Model in the Museum, R.I.A.,	40
III.	Front, side elevation, and ground plan, &c., of Crannog Hut, discovered at Inver, Co. Donegal,	40
IV.	Single-piece Canoes, Paddle, and Anchors,	48
V.	Curach, as used on the Boyne, 1848,	52
	STONE, BONE, BRONZE, AND IRON IMPLEMENTS, &c.	
VI.	Flint, Wood, and Bone Implements from Crannogs,	58

VII.	Hafted Bronze Rapier Sword, showing both sides. Full size,	60
VIII.	Iron Weapons and Manacle from Lagore,	61
IX.	Weapons of Iron from Crannogs,	62
X.	Iron Spear-head, from Lisnacroghera, side and edge view. Half-size,	63
XI.	Portion of Spear-shaft, with ferrules and rivet of bronze. Full size,	64
XII.	Sides of Bronze Sword Sheaths, from the Crannog of Lisnacroghera,	66
XIII.	Iron Tools, &c., found in the bottom of a "dug-out" at Cornagall,	67
XIV.	Front View of Bronze Shield from Lough Gur. Diameter, twenty-eight inches,	71
XV.	Boss-like Objects, and Rings of Bronze, from Lisnacroghera. Full size,	72
WOODEN IMPLEMENTS.		
XVI.	Wooden Yokes found in Donagh Bog and on the	79

margin of Lough Erne,

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMY.

XVII.	Culinary Utensils, Implements, &c., stone, bronze, wood, and iron,	82
XVIII.	Fragments of Pottery, from No. 3 Crannog, Lough Eyes. (Discovered by W. F. Wakeman),	99
XIX.	Fragments of Pottery, from No. 5 and No. 6 Crannogs, Lough Eyes. (Discovered by W. F. Wakeman),	99
XX.	Wooden Platters,	102

ARTICLES OF THE TOILET, &c., OR OF PERSONAL ADORNMENT.

XXI.	Scribed Pins from Ballinderry Crannog,	106
XXII.	Scribed Pins from Ballinderry Crannog,	107
XXIII.	Scribed Pins from Ballinderry Crannog,	108
XXIV.	Iron and Bone Pins from Lagore,	111
XXV.	Articles of Wood,	112
XXVI.	Bronze Brooch from Lagore,	117

XXVII.	Beads, composed of various materials, from Ardakillen, Lagore, Ballinderry, Drumdarragh, Cloonfinlough, and Lough Eyes,	122
--------	---	-----

MUSIC.

XXVIII.	Harp, from the Crannog of Ballinderry. Woodwork restored,	125
---------	---	-----

XXIX.	Bronze Trumpet, now in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy,	127
-------	---	-----

AMUSEMENTS.

XXX.	Stone and Bone Circular Discs from Crannogs,	132
------	--	-----

HORSE FURNITURE.

XXXI.	Forefront of Ancient Irish Saddle. Back and Front view,	136
-------	---	-----

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

XXXII.	Decorated Bones from the Crannogs of Ardakillen and Lagore. Use unknown,	139
--------	--	-----

XXXIII.	Miscellaneous Articles found in Crannogs,	141
---------	---	-----

XXXIV.	Miscellaneous Articles found in Crannogs,	142
--------	---	-----

XXXV.	Objects of various Materials from the Crannogs of Cloonfinlough, and now in the British Museum,	143
XXXVI.	Fishing Implements of Iron from Crannogs. Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, from Ardakillen or Strokestown Crannogs. No. 9 from Lagore. All one-third real size,	144

PART II.

PLANS, SECTIONS, AND GENERAL APPEARANCE OF CRANNOGS, WITH MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES FOUND IN THEM.

XXXVII.	Bronze Weapons from Crannog Sites on Toome Bar,	171
XXXVIII.	Crannogs in Lough Mourne,	172
XXXIX.	Haft of Iron Sword, with Bronze Mountings, from Lisnacrogghera. Full size,	174
XL.	Upper and lower portion of Sides of the Bronze Sheath, from Lisnacrogghera, full size, of which a half-size representation is given, Plate XII. fig. 2,	175
XLI.	Elevation, Plan, Section, and details of the Ballydoolough Crannog, Co. Fermanagh,	182

XLII.	Drumgay Crannogs,	184
XLIII.	Lough Eyes Crannogs. Plate I.,	189
XLIV.	Lough Eyes Crannogs. Plate II.,	190
XLV.	General View of the half-drained Lake of Loughavilly,	191
XLVI.	Remains, &c., found at Loughavilly, Kilnamaddo, and "The Miracles,"	192
	(Figs. 202, 203, 204).—	
XLVII.	General Plan of the Bed of the Drained Lake of Cloneygonnel, <i>alias</i> Tonymore; General View of the exposed Lake Bed; Section of Crannog,	197
	(Figs. 206, 207).—General	
XLVIII.	Plan of Drumkeery Lake, and Plan of Promontory, with Crannog,	200
	(Figs. 220, 221, 222, 223).—	
XLIX.	View of Loughrea, showing Shore and Ash Island; Plan of Shore Island; Section of Shore Island; Section of Shore Island,	226
L.	Map of Ireland, showing approximate distribution of all known Lacustrine Sites,	250

ERRATA.

Table of Contents

Pages 74, 168, n., 182, 234, for *Cervus elephas*, read *Cervus elaphus*.

Page 90—fig. 65, for *No. 1 Crannog***[1]**, read *No. 4 Crannog*.

" 180—Crannog-na-n-Duini (see p. 150) is omitted in the enumeration of sites in the *Co. Donegal*.

" 181—Fort Lough is situated in the *Co. Donegal*, not (as given) in the *Co. Derry*.

LAKE DWELLINGS.

PART I.

Table of Contents

ORIGIN, CONSTRUCTION, AND CIVILIZATION

OF THE

ANCIENT LACUSTRINE HABITATIONS OF IRELAND,

AS ILLUSTRATED BY THEIR REMAINS, AND THE ANTIQUITIES
FOUND IN AND AROUND THEM.

LAKE DWELLINGS OF IRELAND.

“To look back to antiquity is one thing; to go back to it is another. If we look back to antiquity it should be as those who are winning a race—to press forward the faster, and to leave the beaten still farther behind.”



Let us travel back in thought some thousands of years, and picture to ourselves the aspect of Erin at that period. After all, this retrospect is comparatively short, if we take as correct the present computed period of man's existence on this globe. Geology now assigns to the human race a duration it was long considered heterodox to imagine: generation upon generation, who shall say how many, lie beneath the sod over which our footsteps now pass.

The words of Genesis are in no way antagonistic to the discoveries of modern geologists, nor even to the theory of evolution. That the term "day," as used in the Book of Genesis, is not to be understood as confined to a mere duration of twenty-four hours, but should be taken as an undefined period of time, is a point now so generally admitted that it is scarcely needful to quote the words of Scripture, that "one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." In common parlance we speak of events that occurred "in days of old" without intention to limit the idea to periods of twenty-four hours: the form of expression may be held to cover an indefinite number of centuries. In the modern acceptance of the word used to denote the duration of twenty-four hours, we consider the day to be represented by the morning and the evening: there is the brightness of morn followed by the gloom of eve. How different is the idea conveyed by the words of Moses, who was versed in all the learning of the Egyptians, "the Evening and the Morning were the first day," and so on to the end of the six days or intervals of time. While in its course through the heavens our planet was in process of solidifying, "the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep." Here we have the evening: afterwards "there was light," that is to say, morning followed, marking full completion of the first day, or interval of time in the earth's progress towards its present state. It is therefore plain that the term evening cannot be considered to represent a decline from the state of the previous period; rather it betokens the nature of the morn about to follow. We watch with interest

the signs of the evening, not in relation to the day which has already passed away, but as foreshowing the kind of morn that is to succeed.

“... oh who can strive

To comprehend the vast, the awful truth
Of the eternity that hath gone by,
And not recoil from the dismaying sense
Of human impotence?”

In looking back through the pages of history we arrive at a period when all written records cease; but the remains of the dwellings of man, of his arts and industries, enable us to trace out in some degree the general routine of his everyday life. In the matter now under consideration, prehistoric archæology interests chiefly as demonstrating, in a practical manner, the state of the people who occupied Erin long before the beginning of authentic history. Recent researches enable us to lift the veil that heretofore concealed the past of subsided lake-dwellings in Ireland, to bid

“Forgotten generations live again,
Assume the bodily shapes they wore of old”;

to realize to a great extent the physical past of their inhabitants, and in imagination to partake of their daily life. If till lately the learned were on this subject purblind, it is the less surprising that the uncultured fisherman, gliding in his skiff over the placid surface of the waters and peering into the clear depths, should have failed to recognize that the mouldering stems projecting from the oozy bottom were traces of the love of security of his forefathers, that in the muddy matrix of the ever-accumulating lacustrine deposit, are preserved material evidence of a state of society long since passed away.

Until the first half of this nineteenth century all memory of the ancient lake-dwellers of Ireland seemed to have vanished completely, but with the study of ethnology the interest excited in tracing out the idiosyncrasies of the various races of man penetrated to Ireland also, and now “few things can be more interesting than the spectacle of an ancient, long-forgotten people, thus rising, as it were, from the waters of oblivion to take that place which properly belongs to it in the history of the human race.”^[1] Beyond the limits of history and archæology there extends a boundless period of human existence. Far back in this indefinite past we catch glimpses of a shadowy race, the first dwellers in Erin, who, it may be fairly surmised, were in a very rude state—nomad hunters and fishers, subsisting by the chase, which they supplemented by indigenous wild fruits:

“Rugged type of primal man,
Grim utilitarian,
Loving woods for hunt and prowl,
Lake and hill for fish and fowl.”

They formed their ordinary implements and their weapons of warfare from flint, stone, bone, shells, and even wood.

“They were, then were not; they have lived and died,
No trace, no record of their *date* remaining^[1q].”

New comer succeeded new comer in Erin. This epoch was eminently characterized by the sway of brute force—a warlike front alone secured immunity from spoliation; in short, these times were governed on

“... the good old plan
That he should take who has the power,
And he should keep—who can.”

Wooded nature of the Country.—The ancient classical name of Ireland was Ierne, which some etymologists derive through its Greek form from the Celtic, signifying, they say, “the extremity,” [2] the “Ultima Thule” of classic writers; a mystic land, girded by unknown seas, and protected by phantom dangers, the product of imagination, “Gorgons and hydras and chimeras dire.”

The witty and eccentric Dean Swift, remarking on the custom of writers of his day, said:—

“So geographers in Afric’ maps
With savage pictures fill their gaps,
And o’er inhabitable downs
Place elephants, instead of towns.”

It is strange how long this ignorance both as regards Ireland and the “Dark Continent” continued. One of the earliest names of Ireland, given her by her own native poets, is very descriptive, *Fidh-inis*, “the woody island.” This name at once brings before our minds the then characteristic feature of the country, even as its modern poetical designation, “The Emerald Isle,” depicts the luxuriant vegetation watered by the cloud-masses of the Atlantic. The bogs of Ireland, however, speak even more eloquently on this point than her bards, for in these bogs vestiges of ancient forests are found buried, sometimes at great depth below the present surface; the remains of oak, birch, mountain ash, alder, yew, beech, deal, &c., testify to the variety of the arboreous vegetation: they lie either prostrate in a horizontal position, or bear marks of having been felled by man. According to old bardic accounts, the first proceeding chronicled of the earliest settlers was the

clearing of timber off many great plains in various parts of Ireland, evidently showing the paucity of arable land.

Wild Animals.—This continuous forest must have swarmed with wild animals of every description. Wolves, which even in the present day prove a scourge occasionally in parts of Europe, were numerous; the caves which abounded in the country were the home of the bear, and the boar fed beneath the deep forest shade. In these remote times, too, the Irish elk, with its huge, broad, branching antlers, a creature of immense size and strength, was existent. Remains of this gigantic deer, the *Megaceros Hibernicus*[\[2\]](#), have been found, covered by the peat at various depths, sometimes close to the surface; and from allusions in Irish poetry and legends[\[3\]](#) it is more than probable that it continued to exist down to a much later period than most of the other animals now extinct. In a very curious legend, one of the great Irish bards who is reputed to have lived in the third century, and to have himself attained a very advanced age, is described as reciting at a banquet a poem in which he extolled the greatness and strength of his contemporaries and forefathers, and described the tall gigantic deer hunted by them. His listeners laughed incredulously, whereat the old man rose in anger, and going to a neighbouring heap where were piled the relics of bygone hunts, he selected therefrom a shank-bone, and returning to the banquet, took from the table one of the shank-bones of the deer on which the guests were then feasting, and dropped it through the hollow of the bone he had brought in. This legend of the dim old times tends to prove that at a very remote period tradition alone kept up

the memory of the Irish Bighorn.[4] The fact of the co-existence of the *Megaceros* with man does not, however, rest on mere legend; for in a locality called the "Elk Hole," Co. Wexford, numerous skeletons of the extinct deer have been found in company with the remains of man, also a skull and horns, in the "kitchen midden" of the largest of the lake dwellings in Loughrea, Co. Galway, measuring over 13 feet from tip to tip of the antlers;[5] whilst in the refuse heap at Breagh, Co. Fermanagh, portion of an antler (according to the opinion of Professor Owen) was discovered, sawn and perforated with holes. It does not necessarily follow that this relic had belonged to an animal killed and utilized by the lake-dwellers; the horn may have been found by them on some spot where it had rested for ages. However, in the lake-dwelling at Cloonfinlough, Co. Roscommon, bones of the *Megaceros Hibernicus* have been dug up in a very broken state, as if fractured for the purpose of extracting the marrow, whilst remains of the *Megaceros*, in company with a greenstone celt, were discovered in a cave at Cappagh, the bones broken and formed into implements by the hands of man.[6] In Lough Gur, Co. Limerick, wherein is the site of a lake dwelling, remains of the *Cervus tarandus*, or reindeer,[7] were found, together with those of the bear; and near Ballybetagh, Co. Dublin, similar remains were associated with those of the *Megaceros*, whilst elsewhere bones of the *Cervus alces*, or true elk, have been exhumed, and traces of the mammoth, *Elephas primigenius*, have been found near Dungannon.

Climatic Changes.—If reliance can be placed on the accounts of classical writers, it would appear that two

thousand years ago an excessive degree of cold prevailed in the climate of Europe. The great number and extent, of forests, lakes, and morasses, which according to classical authors existed in their time, must have rendered the climate of Europe exceedingly cold and moist. The forests have nearly all been felled, the stagnant water drained, thus producing a very considerable difference between the temperature described as existing in these latitudes 2000 years ago and in the present day. What occurred on the Continent occurred also in Ireland, which, shaded with forests and abounding in marshes, must have had an atmosphere more frigid than if its soil were then, as now, freely exposed to solar influence.

Claudian applied to Ireland the epithet 'icy': Strabo looked on it as a country scarcely habitable; Mela described the climate as cold and unfavourable: however, to counterbalance these authorities, it may be inferred from Tacitus that Ireland was considered milder in climate than Gaul; in that point of view Æthicus says it was superior to Britain, and Solinus states that it abounded in pastures. Owing to the disappearance of Erin's former leafy mantle, and the absence of pestilential exhalations from stagnant fens, the summers have become much *colder* and the winters *warmer* than in remote times.

The turf-cutter in Ireland finds that "usually the roots and trunks of the trees under the peat, or in the lowest strata, are principally those of the oak and yew, as if prior to the growth of the peat the low country was a vast forest of these trees. It would appear that subsequently mosses and other peat-producing plants began to grow and flourish,

until eventually they stopped the drainage, and formed an envelope of peat, thus killing the trees, which one by one toppled over and were buried in the succeeding growth of peat. After the disappearance of the major portion of the oak trees, the bogs, year by year, gradually increased in depth, until apparently suddenly, for some as yet unexplained cause, their growth ceased, and on their surface forests, principally of deals, sprang up.”[8] Thus we see that since the glacial period there have been great changes in the aspect and the surface of Ireland: first, the great oak forest age; then an age in which was an active growth of peat; thirdly, a period when forests of deal sprang up; fourthly, again a period of luxuriant peat growth.

The remains of human handicraft, in the form of log-houses or lake-dwellings, have been found buried under each and all these peat growths: a depth of 25 feet had overgrown the log-house discovered at Inver, Co. Donegal, and on the floor-level, outside the building, were traces of the corks of the great oak forest age. It is practically impossible to estimate the rate at which a bog grows: if there be a fall, and consequent drainage, it will increase but little, whereas an undrained bog augments with considerable rapidity: so many contingencies are thus introduced as practically to invalidate in a great degree calculations regarding the growth of peat over prehistoric or other remains. G. H. Kinahan has estimated that in undisturbed conditions each year’s growth, represented by a layer or lamina somewhat resembling the markings on a forest tree, would average one hundred laminæ to the foot in white or surface turf, two to three hundred to the foot in

found in parts of Ireland and historically used as a touchstone for testing gold and silver due to its hard siliceous surface.

21 I.H.S. is a Christian Christogram (letters of Jesus' name, derived from the Greek/Latin form) frequently used in medieval and later Christian inscriptions and art; its appearance on the harp's brass plate is taken here as evidence that that work postdates the medieval period (not older than the 16th century in this context).

22 Opus Hibernicum (Latin, 'Irish work') refers to a style of decorative metalwork and enamelling associated with medieval Irish or Insular art, characterized by interlaced knotwork and coloured enamel; art-historical usage typically places examples in the early to high medieval period, though exact dates vary by object and scholarship.

23 Man-made or timber-built island dwellings in lakes and marshes in Ireland, formed with piled wooden stakes and platforms; they were used from prehistoric times and, in some cases, continued in use into the medieval and early modern periods (up to the 17th century).

24 Here used as an Irish word for a type of brooch or dress-fastener, typically a bronze pin with broad decorative terminals and a long pin, used to secure garments in the Iron Age and later periods.

25 Pericles (c. 495–429 BCE) was the leading Athenian statesman of the 5th century BCE; the text invokes his era as a chronological reference for when certain domestic animals and practices became known to the Greeks.

26 An Anglo-Norman knight active in Ireland in the late 12th century who led campaigns in Ulster (from about 1177)

and established castles and lordships there, becoming one of the principal Norman figures in north-western Ireland.

27 A major 17th-century compilation of earlier medieval Irish annals, assembled c.1632–1636 by a group of Franciscan scholars (commonly called the ‘Four Masters’), frequently cited as a source for Ireland’s medieval history and chronology.

28 The Tuatha dé Danann are a group of supernatural beings or deities in medieval Irish mythology, presented in later sources as the skilled, pre-Érainn peoples who fought mythic battles such as those at Moytura; they belong to literary tradition rather than verifiable historical record.

29 Fibulæ (singular fibula) are ancient metal brooches or garment fasteners used across Europe from the Bronze Age through Roman and early medieval times, often elaborately decorated and useful for dating archaeological contexts.

30 Gallowglasses were heavily armed mercenary warriors of mixed Norse-Gaelic and Scottish origin recruited into Irish service from about the 13th century onwards, noted for fighting as elite infantry and often associated with axes and large battle-axes.

31 Here used to mean a causeway or piled track across a shallow lough, often constructed of stones, timber, or brushwood to connect islands with the shore; the term appears in local and antiquarian accounts and denotes an engineered crossing rather than a natural feature.

32 Ringforts (Irish ráth): circular earthen or stone enclosures commonly built in early medieval Ireland as farmsteads or defended homesteads.

33 Large-scale 19th-century engineering works to lower lake, river, or bog water-levels in Ireland to reclaim land and reduce flooding, often carried out by Drainage Commissioners.

34 The investigator named in the text who examined the Cloneygonnell locality in 1862 and made sketches of the site; cited here as the contemporary examiner of the remains.

35 Medieval Gaelic chronicles compiled by monastic scribes that record events year-by-year; they are important historical sources but sometimes contain legendary material and inconsistent chronologies.

36 A.M. stands for Anno Mundi ('in the year of the world'), a dating system used in some medieval annals; its numerical correlation with A.D. years varies among different chronologies.

37 An Irish term rendered in the text as 'white bronze' (spelled here 'findruin'), used historically to denote a pale metal or copper alloy of variable composition found on archaeological sites.

38 An English army officer and pioneering archaeologist (1827–1900) who assembled large collections of antiquities and helped establish systematic approaches to archaeology; 'F.R.S.' indicates he was a Fellow of the Royal Society.

39 A metal ring or collar fitted to the socket or haft of a spear (or similar implement) to reinforce and protect the junction; in archaeological contexts it can also be decorative metal ornamentation on weapon fittings.

40 The Annals of Loch Cé are a medieval Irish chronicle (Gaelic annals) recording regional events—particularly in

Connacht—and are used as a primary historical source for dates and incidents mentioned in the text.

41 *Megaceros* is an older taxonomic name used for very large extinct deer (often equated with *Megaloceros*, the so-called 'Irish elk'), a Pleistocene-Holocene species known from fossil remains in Ireland and elsewhere.

42 A Scandinavian term (often anglicized as 'kitchen-midden' or Danish 'køkkenmødding') for prehistoric refuse heaps of shells, bones, charcoal and domestic debris, used by archaeologists to identify coastal or lakeside habitation layers from the Mesolithic onward.

43 The Irish name for Navan Fort (Eamhain Mhacha) in County Armagh, a major prehistoric royal site traditionally associated with the kings of Ulster and mentioned in medieval Irish annals as occupied into the early historic era.

44 Latin title of Julius Caesar's *Commentaries on the Gallic War*, a 1st-century BCE account of his campaigns in Gaul (including references to Britain), frequently cited in classical descriptions of ancient fortifications and topography.

45 Abbreviation for the *Catalogue of the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy*, a published inventory and description of objects held by the R.I.A.'s museum used as a reference by antiquaries.

46 William Frederick Wakeman (1822–1900), an Irish antiquarian and archaeologist who published papers on Irish antiquities and frequently contributed to the *Journal of the Royal Historical and Archaeological Association of Ireland*.

47 The *Leabhar na hUidhre* (Book of the Dun Cow) is a medieval Irish manuscript compiled around A.D. 1106 that