

Mountains, the relics of the ancient proboscidiæ have often been discovered in such association with human relics as to afford strong evidence of contemporaneity. On the banks of the Ashley River in South Carolina, human bones, arrow-heads, hatchets and potsherds are found mingled with bones of the hog, the horse, the mastodon, and extinct gigantic lizards. In the same epoch lived the wide-faced bison, the shrub-loving tapir and a gigantic beaver, and a number of gigantic Edentates—wanderers from South America.

If, from the monuments which these primitive people have left behind, we attempt to form an estimate of their physical, intellectual, and moral characteristics, we become at once convinced that in their cranial characters they were equal in rank to the average races of modern times. Beyond all question, they were no connecting links between man and lower animals. The evidences of their intelligence place them as high as the Esquimaux. In mechanical skill they were equal to the manufacture of a large assortment of implements of stone and bone. Before the close of the Stone Age, they produced many evidences of an æsthetic faculty. They polished their stone axes, and worked their arrow and lance heads after more elaborate and artistic patterns. Their pottery began to receive some crude decorations. They carved the bone and horn handles of some of their weapons. They engraved on slate, ivory, and bone the figures of familiar animals; and among these portraits are sketches of the hairy elephant, furnishing further evidence of their contemporaneous possession of the forest and the plain. These men also, possessed a religious nature. There are certain emblems and objects which, by general admission, must receive a religious interpretation. The care bestowed on the dead evinces a belief that even after death they retained relations of love and recognition. They sent them on their mysterious journey with such offerings and supplies as should meet their necessities. The idea of future life dwelt in their breasts; even these poor fore-runners of our humanity dreamed of a happy world beyond the pains and trials of mortal dissolution.