

Bronze Age, and Iron Age. There can be no doubt that, on the whole, this has been the general order of succession in Europe, where men used stone and bone before they had discovered the use of metal, and learned how to obtain bronze before they knew anything of the metallurgy of iron. Nevertheless, the use of stone long survived the introduction of bronze and iron. In fact, in European countries where metal has been known for many centuries, there are districts where stone implements are still

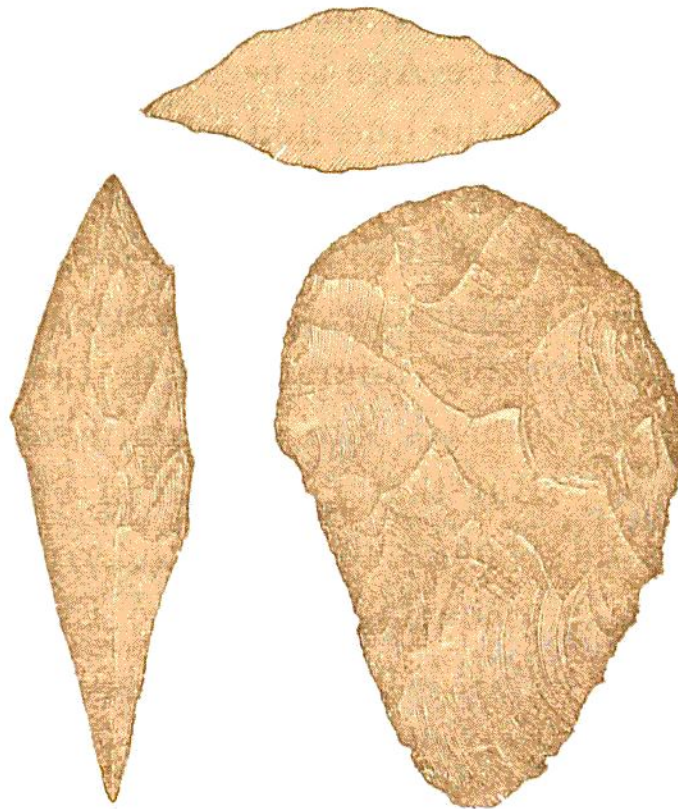


Fig. 459.—Palæolithic Flint Implements.

employed, or where they were in use until quite recently. It is obvious also that, as there are still barbarous tribes unacquainted with the fabrication of metal, the Stone Age is not yet extinct in some parts of the world. In this instance, we again see how geological periods run into each other. The material or shape of the implement cannot therefore be always a very satisfactory proof of antiquity. We must judge of it by the circumstances under which it