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978-1-108-05485-0 - Prehistoric Man: Researches into the Origin of Civilisation in the Old and the New World: Volume 2

Daniel Wilson

Frontmatter

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The discovery of material remains from the recent or the ancient past has always been a source of fascination, but the development of archaeology as an academic discipline which interpreted such finds is relatively recent. It was the work of Winckelmann at Pompeii in the 1760s which first revealed the potential of systematic excavation to scholars and the wider public. Pioneering figures of the nineteenth century such as Schliemann, Layard and Petrie transformed archaeology from a search for ancient artifacts, by means as crude as using gunpowder to break into a tomb, to a science which drew from a wide range of disciplines - ancient languages and literature, geology, chemistry, social history - to increase our understanding of human life and society in the remote past.

Prehistoric Man

The Scottish archaeologist and anthropologist Daniel Wilson (1816–92) spent the latter part of his life in Canada. Published in 1862, this is a seminal work in the study of early man in which Wilson utilises studies of native tribes ‘still seen there in a condition which seems to reproduce some of the most familiar phases ascribed to the infancy of the unhistoric world’. He believed that civilisations initially developed in mild climates and judged the Mayans to have been the most advanced civilisation in the New World. Twentieth-century anthropologist Bruce Trigger argued that Wilson ‘interpreted evidence about human behaviour in a way that is far more in accord with modern thinking than are the racist views of Darwin and Lubbock’, and it is in this light that this two-volume work can be judged. Volume 2 covers topics ranging from ceramic arts to the influence of interbreeding and migration upon civilisations.

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in the Old and the New World*

VOLUME 2

DANIEL WILSON



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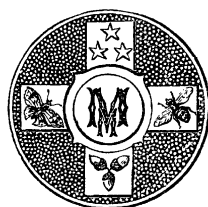
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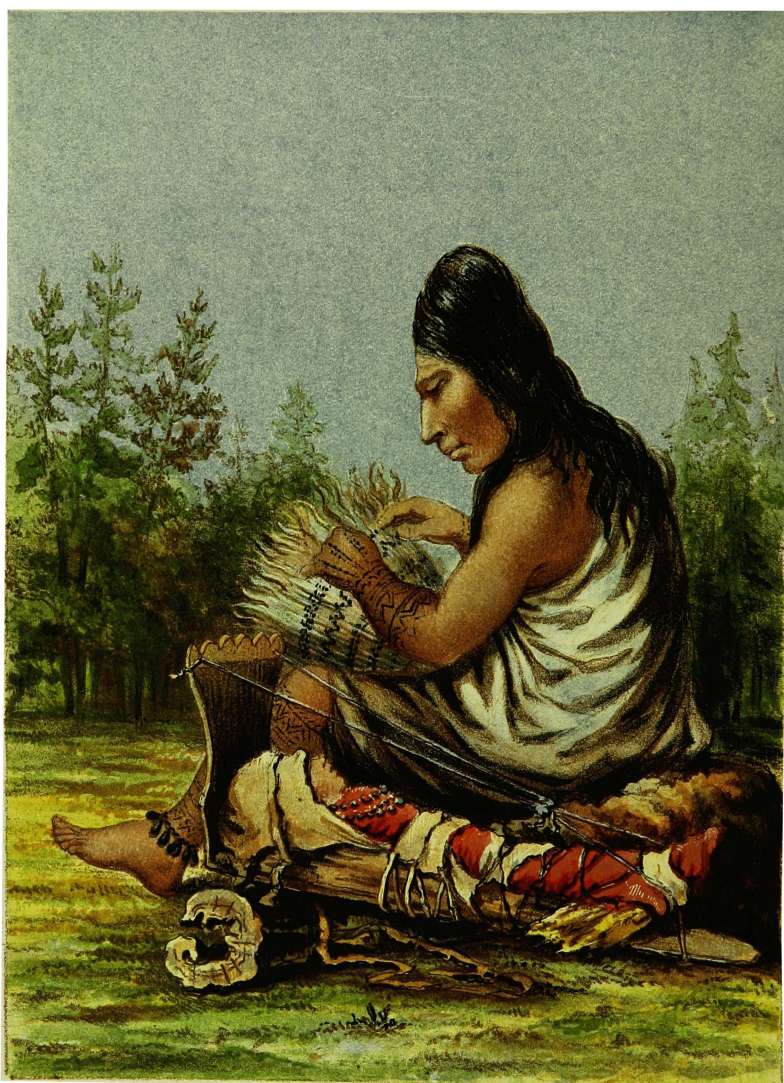
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Vincent Brooks, lith

CAW WE LITCKS
A FLATHEAD WOMAN AND CHILD.

Drawn by D. Wilson, L.L.D. — from sketches by Paul Kane.

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PREHISTORIC MAN

RESEARCHES INTO THE ORIGIN OF CIVILISATION
IN THE OLD AND THE NEW WORLD.

BY

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C O N T E N T S.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| CHAPTER XVI. | PAGE |
| NARCOTIC ARTS AND SUPERSTITIONS, | 1 |
| CHAPTER XVII. | |
| PRIMITIVE ARCHITECTURE : MEGALITHIC, | 51 |
| CHAPTER XVIII. | |
| THE CERAMIC ART : POTTERY, | 75 |
| CHAPTER XIX. | |
| THE INTELLECTUAL INSTINCT : LETTERS, | 122 |
| CHAPTER XX. | |
| ANTE-COLUMBIAN TRACES : COLONIZATION, | 155 |
| CHAPTER XXI. | |
| THE AMERICAN CRANIAL TYPE, | 199 |
| CHAPTER XXII. | |
| ARTIFICIAL CRANIAL DISTORTION, | 289 |
| CHAPTER XXIII. | |
| THE RED BLOOD OF THE WEST, | 327 |
| VOL. II. | b |

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978-1-108-05485-0 - Prehistoric Man: Researches into the Origin of Civilisation in the
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[More information](#)

CONTENTS.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| CHAPTER XXIV. | |
| THE INTRUSIVE RACES, | PAGE 391 |
| CHAPTER XXV. | |
| ETHNOGRAPHIC HYPOTHESES: MIGRATIONS, | 435 |
| CHAPTER XXVI. | |
| GUESSES AT THE AGE OF MAN, | 455 |
| APPENDIX, | 479 |