

(L2064)

THE MUSEUM HOUSE,

OXFORD.

Sep. 30 1894

My dear General Pitt Rivers

It was a great satisfaction to have your opinion on the Tasmanian implements after going through the evidence. I wish however that another effort could be made, to get the geologists

and anthropologists at
Hobart Town to have further
searches in different districts
of Tasmania, so as to see
whether the rude chipped
implements are the same
everywhere, and whether the
polished ones are ever to be
found. If any way of getting
this done occurs to you
will you kindly tell me.

We were much pleased
to see the appreciative
article in the Spectator
on your Museum and Garden.
I am very glad that you
think Section A. did well.
For myself, I found it
a profit and pleasure to
~~have~~ more talk with you
than I had had for a
good while.

Yours very truly
C. B. Tylor

On some Stone Implements of Australian Type from Tasmania.
By E. B. TYLOR, D.C.L., F.R.S.

The ordinary stone implements used by the Tasmanians were remarkable for their rudeness. They come generally under the definition of substantial flakes, trimmed and edged by chipping on one side only, not ground even at the edge, and grasped in the hand without any kind of handle. The palæolithic level of these implements, notwithstanding their often recent date, had been pointed out by the writer.¹ In illustration of this comparison, Tasmanian implements were now exhibited side by side with flint implements from the cavern of Le Moustier, in Dordogne. But an important point of exception as to this comparison, mentioned in the paper referred to, demands reconsideration in view of the new evidence now brought forward. In the investigation as to native stone implements conducted about twenty years ago by the Royal Society of Tasmania, some exceptional statements were made as to stone axes or 'tomahawks' being ground to an edge, and fixed in handles, and these were explained as due to the Australian natives who have passed into Tasmania since the European settlement. What was meant by these statements now appears more clearly from three ground implements of distinctly Australian character, well authenticated as brought from Tasmania, and now exhibited by the courtesy of the Municipality of Brighton, to whose museum they belong. The largest has a label showing that it was obtained through Dr. Joseph Milligan, probably from Mr. G. A. Robinson, the first protector of the aborigines after the native war; and that it was grasped in the hand for notching trees in climbing. The other two specimens are merely marked 'Tasmanian,' with the initials 'G. A. R.' The coexistence of two such different types as the chipped and ground forms in Tasmania requires, however, further explanation. This may probably be found in the immigration of Australians either after or before the English colonisation, but it would be desirable that anthropologists in Tasmania should make further enquiry into the question on the spot, so as fully to clear up the interesting position of the Tasmanian Stone Age.

¹ 'On the Tasmanians as Representatives of Palæolithic Man' in *Journ. Anthropol. Inst.*, vol. xxiii. 1893, p. 141.

I get home.

Possibly you might like a series of pottery from our mounds & if so I will try to get them for you - You probably have all our stone things. If you want more let me know. No one has touched the subject of sun-bonnets - It is my idea - & would be fresh if you took it up - I have no collection but will try to get you some & send them -

I reached Salisbury about ten & took the morning train to London leaving Stonehenge for conscience sake.

Ans'd.
Telegraph Office,
Winstan.

(L1064a)

Hewell Grange,
Redditch.

October 2. 1894
Dear General Pitt-Rivers
I am exceedingly obliged to you for the splendid present of your works for our Library which I found in the Room when you left me. I will write to our Director of your kindness & you shall have I hope some day some kind of return from us, if not in books - for which we have published very few, then in assistance in the way of your collections; ~~would~~ I will write you further as to this when

James H. H. H.
H. H. H.

James H. H. H.
H. H. H.

On reaching London
I came directly here -
I think of going tomorrow
to Dunstable to see
Worthington Smith's
Paleolithic floor.

My address remains
Bath Hotel Piccadilly
London - If I should
not see you again
I must send my
particular thanks to
you & to Mrs Rivers
for ~~your~~ visit to
Rushmore. I have
had no such other
pleasant impression
on my travels and
expect none like
it elsewhere -
with my best respects to
Mrs Rivers & your family
believe me sincerely yours
H. C. Mercer