

felt the guilt and shame of sin. As the consciousness of their personal condition came to their agitated minds, they looked around for the instruction of some easy lesson which they could master at once, or for the material and model of some kind of covering. The large, tough leaves of the fig, concealing its graceful limbs, comprised Nature's baby-lesson, and this they grasped with eager haste and applied to themselves. They continued to sew these leaves together, probably with bark-threads <sup>from</sup> the branches <sub>at</sub> from which they plucked them, "and made themselves aprons." Here, in the precipitate action of these hours of distress and mental excitement, the human mind took its first lesson in one of those mechanic arts which now employ and support such toiling myriads of the race. The insupportable pressure of a new necessity, humanly speaking, was the mother of this invention. It evidently cost the unhappy twain the highest effort in this direction of which they were capable without Divine assistance. Having made it, they were apparently satisfied with its small measure of success, or doubted their ability to improve upon the texture and fashion of their little fig-leaf aprons. Where could they find better materials and patterns for their garments? They evidently sought no better, and perhaps would have worn fig-leaf aprons for years, if God had not interposed directly to help them over the space between this first lesson and the next in his great Model-Book of instruction. With a pitying father's hand, he pointed them to more perfect patterns, to clothing more durable and fitting than that in which the summer fruit trees clad their limbs. He raised their eyes from the lower or vegetable

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to the animal domain of nature, and showed them the texture and fashion of those beautiful garments in which he had clothed the sheep, the beaver, bear and buffalo; - how perfectly, without visible seam or wrinkle, these garments were fitted to the body and limbs. He not only pointed out the lesson with its illustrations, but He actually applied it to their own case. In the simple language of scripture: "God made both unto Adam and Eve coats of skins and clothed them"

Here and thus commenced the art of garment making. It is the only one of all the list that bears the fingerprints, as well as verbal directions, of the Creator as its Teacher. To whatever frivolous ends and influences the art may have degenerated in these days of exaggerated fashions, it may show a divine origin, of which no other mechanical art can boast. The lesson through which it was taught to Adam, is still full of infinite wisdom. Its instruction will never be exhausted, even when some future generation shall have exhausted the refinements of human skill and taste. At that far end of improvement, no fabric of the loom or needle will equal in fineness and perfection the warp and woof of the ermine's skin. The youngest mind will easily understand, that if necessity is the mother of invention, this garment making must have been the first of her children. Clothing if not the first, is at least the third of the great Quartet of  $\$$  man's physical necessities; which may be ranked thus: Food, Drink, Clothing and Shelter. To obtain the two first, first required no special revelation. The trees of Eden dropped fruits that were nutritious as well as pleasant to the taste. The rivers that compassed it were ready to quench the

To produce this entire or all this marked out

thrust. The platted branches of the long armed cedar, or overhanging rocks, or caves in the mountain sides, furnished shelter already made, easily improved with the feeblest capacity of invention. Still, it is doubtful whether the manufacture of clothing ever constituted a distinct occupation before the Flood, as every family would naturally make its own supply, one using the skins of their sheep and cattle, the other the skins of ~~the~~ wild beasts taken in hunting, thus indicating their several occupations. The Farmer, ~~the~~ Herdsman and Hunter divided the ante diluvian world of labor between them, and all the elements of trade consisted in the simple articles exchanged between these three classes of the community.

With the murder of Abel, commenced that reign of violence that filled and overwhelmed the whole <sup>populated</sup> earth. The rude bludgeon of Cain blossomed and brought forth warclubs. The hunter became a warrior, and doubtless the whole <sup>mechanical</sup> genius of the race took the same direction as among the North American Indians in later times. It all ran to the elaborate construction of weapons of war, and to the fanciful decorations of the hunters of men and beasts. Little of it was devoted to agricultural implements or to the development of the peaceful arts. Indeed, it is very doubtful whether iron had been discovered or applied to common uses before the Deluge. The length of time occupied in building the Ark would seem to <sup>demonstrate</sup> ~~prove~~ that axes and adzes of stone were the sharpest edged tools employed in falling and fitting the timbers for that vast structure. It is quite evident that up to this event, the art of shipbuilding was <sup>entirely</sup> unknown. Doubtless its necessity had not yet been felt. The human race had not spread far and wide upon the surface

of the Globe. We have no data whereby to estimate their population. Taking into consideration the climate of the country they inhabited, the fearful <sup>violence</sup> demoralization and bloodshed that prevailed among them, they could not have exceeded, at the time of the Deluge, the population of Great Britain in the year 1700, or about six millions. The rivers of <sup>the city of London.</sup> region, as now, were fordable at the distance from the sea at which the scriptures intimate they were located. They had no pressing occasion even for boats, and probably none had been constructed. The Bible history clearly demonstrates the fact, that no vessel capable of living upon the sea, had been <sup>ever</sup> constructed or conceived by man. For here again, God interposed with a special revelation, and gave to Noah specific directions for building the ark. He specified the very timber of which it was to be made, its length, breadth and depth, and all the minute particulars of its structure. He then taught him how to make the great hull impervious to the water, by pitching it within and without.

As the patriarch preserved specimens of the animal creation, that every useful bird and beast might be perpetuated, so in his mind were treasured all the mechanical skill, taste, and intellectual ~~taste~~ progress that had been developed in the Ante-diluvian world. The waters that covered the earth so many cubits deep, extinguishing every breath of life outside the ~~the~~ nutshell of humanity that danced upon <sup>their</sup> dark surges, made no breach in human <sup>advancement;</sup> progress; they put out the light of no human thought worth anything to man. All the occupations into which the race had been divided were represented in Noah and his sons. When the green earth reappeared with its seed time, he went forth and resumed that <sup>occupation</sup> which he had previously followed, and "began <sup>to</sup> be a husbandman." As soon as his sheep and cattle