

Evening Meeting.

MR. CHARLES NOEL WELMAN read an interesting notice of incidents in the Civil War in Somersetshire, extracted from broad sheets published by order of Parliament.

MR. EMANUEL GREEN read an abstract of a paper on the "Civil War in Somerset."

MR. JOHN BATTEN read a paper on "Sequestrations in the Hundred of Catash," which is given in part ii.

MR. EDWARD T. STEVENS followed with a paper on

Flint and Stone Implements.

In the course of his interesting address, which was illustrated by many valuable specimens, he said that in almost every part of the world evidence existed of a period during which people were fain to supply their wants by means of implements formed of natural substances—such as wood, stone, bone, horn, or the teeth and claws of animals.

This period is now usually known as the "stone period ;" and he had been asked to say a few words upon it, in reference to the series of stone implements exhibited in the temporary museum that day. He desired to state, that in speaking of the stone period, he wished it to be understood that he regarded it simply as a test of culture, perhaps the best test we possess. Some savages are now living in, or have but recently emerged from, their stone period ; whilst other stone-using people lived in times so remote from our own, that history and tradition were alike silent respecting their existence, and we had to seek our information through the science of geology. Examples of stone implements, obtained from the drift, the earliest evidences of man's existence on the earth, were shown in the Museum ; so are specimens belonging to the later stone, or neolithic, period. Numerous implements were fashioned from other substances than such as possessed a conchoidal fracture, and were accordingly wrought into shape by other methods than "flaking," such as "pecking," or grinding. Then there were stone implements shown from New Zealand, and various Melanesian and Polynesian Islands, as well as from British Guiana and other localities in the New World, in which countries the use of stone implements was retained until very recently, and, indeed, in some districts is still retained. Mr. Stevens also spoke of some of the typical forms of stone implement, concluding by making some remarks upon the myths which prevail, almost universally, with reference to stone hatchets being thunderbolts, and stone arrow heads being elf-arrows ; citing the occurrence of such legends in the North of Europe, the West Indies, India, China, Japan, and the Malay peninsula. He classed such legends as myths of observation, the origin and development of which might be traced to the attempt

to explain natural phenomena. They were to be regarded as inferences from observed facts, taking the form of positive assertions, and might have originated independently in different parts of the world.

Votes of thanks to the gentlemen who had read papers, and to the President, having been passed, the meeting was closed.
