CORRESPONDENCE

THE RESURRECTION OF ARCHÆOLOGY.

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS.

Sir,—Far be it from me to impugn the learned article of the February number, in which Archæology was buried with much Homeric laughter; but may I point out that among the Prehistorians—the delvers with spade and bucket (barrow?) and the villains of the piece according to the learned article—there are a few good children of Holy Mother Church.

By way of preface it must be conceded to be very wicked to hint at human descent from the ancient elephant and reindeer, to say nothing of the cave bear and broad-nosed rhino. Perhaps such an anomalous mixture of arctic and tropic fauna in one 'hole' upset the poor men's mental balance. The account of the portentous landslide is good news: even some of the irreligious 'diggers,' off and on from the beginning, have predicted it.

The names of the following 'diggers' are, therefore, humbly proposed for exemption from the army of shovellers of 'mountains of mud' and 'mountains of rubbish.'

Father John MacEnery, F.G.S.—A century ago he was the only 'digger' to advocate what for a better term is now called Prehistoric Archæology or Prehistory. He is reckoned as one of its founders, and by his discoveries did much to advance Pleistocene Palæontology in England.

The Abbé Ducrost.—He in company with Dr. Arcelin and H. de Ferry explored in 1866 the great stone-age camp of Solutré, the result of which introduced the *Solutrean*, the second culture stage of the Upper Palæolithic.

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The Abbé Bourgeois.—His researches in beds of Upper Oligocene age near Thenay with the Abbé Delaunay led him to propound in 1867 the theory of the so-called 'eoliths,' over which the 'diggers' have battled tooth and nail (or pick and spade) ever since.

The Canon de Villeneuve.—He, with Professor Boule and Professor Cartailhac, scientifically explored five great caves and several rock shelters of Grimaldi, Mentone. The account is given in two magnificent tomes issued in parts between 1906 and 1912 at the expense of the Prince of Monaco. These explorations have supplied the richest spoils for our knowledge of the *Aurignacian.*

The Abbés A. and J. Bouyssonie and the Abbé Bardon.—Among their many achievements in the science of Prehistory, it is sufficient to mention the famous discovery in 1908, near La Chapelle-aux-Saints, of the most perfect skeleton known of Neanderthal man. It re-established and enlarged our information of that extinct race, for the site was definitely proved to be a ceremonial interment, accompanied by offerings of food and implements, of the *Mousterian.*

Père Teilhard de Chardin, S.J.—He shared some of the honours of the discovery of the celebrated Piltdown skull. 'In 1923 he discovered at sites in China and Mongolia human industrial remains, together with fossilized bones of animals many of which are extinct.'

Doctor Hugo Obermaier, Professor of Prehistoric Archæology at the University of Madrid, and the *Abbé Henri Breuil*, Assistant Director of the Institut de Paléontologie humaine at Paris.—Of these two world-renowned priests hardly enough can be said. They are accounted by distinguished 'diggers' as the two greatest living experts of the Lower and Upper Palæolithic respectively. To them is attributed the most prominent part in the expansion of our know-

ledge of the Prehistory of Western Europe; and to them we are indebted for having established 'digging with spade and bucket' as a genuine and worthy science. But lest it may seem that I exaggerate, let me quote *The Times Literary Supplement* of August 13th, 1925:

'Of its two professors, MM. Henri Breuil and Hugo Obermaier, one can but say, "Arcades ambo!" leaving to posterity the invidious task of determining which of the two has done—or, rather, since both of them are still at the full height of their powers, will have done—more to establish prehistoric archæology on as sound a basis as any department of the science of man can be shown to possess.'

But apart from what other authorities may say, these few names will suffice to suggest that there is indeed some wheat among the tares of Prehistoric Archæology.

KEVIN CLARK, O.P.

To the Editor of BLACKFRIARS.

Sir,—Allow me to make a public statement of my deep gratitude to Father Kevin Clark for this list of Catholic Prehistorians, with whom and with whose work, thanks to Father Kevin himself, and the library of fascinating literature to which he has introduced me, I was already perfectly familiar. But I cannot be thankful enough for having been reminded of their names at this important juncture, when by my eloquent and learned contribution to your pages I had almost induced Holy Church to condemn Prehistoric Archæology as an immoral and diabolically dangerous pursuit. This number of good names would have been more than enough to save Sodom. It shall suffice to stay my hand against Archæology. And, with Archæology spared, may we not hope that Sodom

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