

# SCIENCE

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## ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT TO THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SECTION OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE<sup>1</sup>

### A STUDY OF PRIMITIVE CHARACTER

CIVILIZATION and "savagery"—for unfortunately it seems now too late to substitute any term of less misleading suggestion for that word "savagery"—are the labels which we civilized folk apply respectively to two forms of human culture apparently so unlike that it is hard to conceive that they had a common origin—our own culture and that other, the most primitive form of human culture, from which, at some unknown and distant period, our own diverged. But, assuming one common origin for the whole human race, we anthropologists can but assume that at an early stage in the history of that race some new idea was implanted in a part of these folk, that is in the ancestors of civilized folk which caused these thenceforth to advance continuously, doubtless by many again subsequently diverging and often intercrossing roads, some doubtless more rapidly than others, but all mainly towards that which is called civilization, while those others, those whom we call "savages," were left behind at that first parting of the ways, to stumble blindly, advancing indeed after a fashion of their own, but comparatively slowly and in a quite different direction.

It is easy enough for civilized folk, when after age-long separation they again come across the "savages," to discern the existence of wide differences between the two, in physical and mental characteristics, and

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<sup>1</sup> Australia, 1914.