

## CUPS AND THEIR CUSTOMS.

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..... "Then shall our names,  
Familiar in their mouths as household words,  
Be in their flowing cups freshly remember'd."

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As in all countries and in all ages drinking has existed as a necessary institution, so we find it has been invariably accompanied by its peculiar forms and ceremonies; but in endeavouring to trace these, we are at once beset with the difficulty of fixing a starting-point. If we were inclined to treat the subject in a rollicking fashion, we could find a high antiquity ready-made to our hands in the apocryphal doings of mythology, and might quote the nectar of the gods as the first of all potations; for we are told that

"When Mars, the God of War, of Venus first did think,  
He laid aside his helm and shield, and mix'd a drop of drink."

But it is our intention, at the risk of being considered pedantic, to discourse on customs more tangible and real. If we are believers in the existence of pre-Adamite man, the records he has left us, in the shape of flint- and stone-implements, are far too difficult of *solution* to