NEW ARCHEOLOGICAL LIGHTS ON
THE ORIGINS OF CIVILIZATION
IN EUROPE

Et quasi curseres vitae lampada tradunt

When I was asked on behalf of the council of the British Association to occupy the
responsible post of president at the meeting in this great city—the third that has taken
place here—I was certainly taken by surprise; the more so as my own subject of re-
search seemed somewhat removed from what may be described as the central in-
terests of your body. The turn of archeology, however, I was told, had come round
again on the rota of the sciences represented; nor could I be indifferent to the
fact that the last presidential address on this theme had been delivered by my father
at the Toronto meeting of 1897.

Still, it was not till after considerable hesitation that I accepted the honor. Eng-
gaged as I have been through a series of years in the work of excavation in Crete—a
work which involved not only the quarrying but the building up of wholly new mate-
rials and has entailed the endeavor to classify the successive phases of a long, con-
tinuous story—absorbed and fascinated by my own investigation—I am oppressed with
the consciousness of having been less able to keep pace with the progress of fellow
explorers in other departments or to do sufficient justice to their results. I will not
dwell, indeed, on those disabilities that result to myself from present calls and the
grave preoccupations of the hour, that to a greater or less extent must affect us all.

1 Address of the president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, New-
castle-on-Tyne, 1916.