

of Gibraltar it became a familiar object on the Mediterranean. Or to put it in another way, the improvement of the coracle to the Viking ship made international trading possible.

This evolution did not take place in one part of the world and then spread abroad. So far as can be gathered from survivals of early

**Widespread
Evolution.**

craft in different parts of the world, a very similar evolution took place in widely separate countries and continents. Both in the Far East and the Far West serviceable sea craft were produced, and as mankind settled down after having passed through the hunting and pastoral stages to the more civilised stage of agriculture, and had quantities of food-stuffs and raw materials of various kinds with which to traffic, the vehicle suitable for early trade was also available.

Thus trading began and continued to develop, a growing commerce requiring a larger vehicle which led to the oar first being supplemented, and finally displaced by the sail.