

The fourth monthly meeting was held at the society's rooms on Monday evening, December 18; the President, Dr. Smallwood, in the chair.

The following donations were announced and thanks voted to the donors:—

TO THE MUSEUM.

A fine specimen of the American deer (*Cervus Virginianus*), from Mr. W. S. Macfarlane; seven specimens of Central American birds from Mr. Haig, through Mr. Leeming; specimen of a South American turtle-dove from Mr. Struthers; nine specimens of Devonian fossil fishes from Orkney, Scotland, from Mr. Barnston.

PROCEEDINGS.

A paper on the natural history of *Sanguinaria Canadensis* or Canada blood-root, by Dr. Gibb, of London, was read by the Secretary.

Principal Dawson afterwards exhibited a number of specimens of flint implements and fossils from St. Acheul, near Amiens, and made some observations on the mode of their occurrence in the 'high level gravel,' in the valley of the Somme. He referred to the investigations of Boucher-de-Perthese, Lyell, and Prestwich, and quoted a portion of the description of the locality by the latter geologist. He stated that he had come to the following conclusions, derived from an examination of the locality and of the specimens, more especially those in the collection of Mr. Prestwich:

1. The implements cannot be considered so much as characteristic of a particular age as of particular work. They are not spears, or arrows, or hatchets, but picks and diggers, adapted for digging in the earth, or hollowing wooden canoes. A consideration of the implements of the American stone age renders it in the highest degree improbable that the makers of these tools did not possess also stone arrows, spears, knives, and other implements. The application of the idea of an older and ruder stone age to such implements is gratuitous, and contradicted by the evidence afforded by American antiquities.

2. There are some reasons which induce the belief that these implements have been used in burrowing, small horizontal adits into the gravel beds of St. Acheul, in search of flints. In this case they may not be of great antiquity, though certainly older than the Roman occupation of Gaul.