

such discoveries point, in greater detail than could be permitted in this address, I shall only remark, meanwhile, that those who appear to be most startled with the apparent bearings of such discoveries, overlook the nearly analogous evidence we already possessed of the antiquity of the primeval colonization of the British Isles. Fully ten years since, and before the publication of M. Boucher de Perthes' work, in discussing the prehistoric traces of British population, I based one important line of argument for its antiquity on the discovery of artificial lances and harpoons, found beside the gigantic *Balænoptera* of the Scottish drift in the Carse of Stirling. These extinct fossil mammals—one of them seventy-two feet long,—lay stranded at the base of the Ochills, twenty-one feet above the present tide level, and from seven to twenty miles distant from the nearest ocean reach. Whatever difficulties may seem to arise from the recent disclosures at Abbeville and Amiens, or the older ones at Hoxne in Suffolk, in relation to the age of man, the chronology which suffices to embrace the ancient Caledonian whaler of the valley of the Forth within the period of human history will equally answer for the more recently discovered allophylian of the French diluvium. Meanwhile it may not be unprofitable to note here also the changing phases of scientific theology. The difficulty now is to reconcile the discovery of works of human art alongside of the fossil mammals of the drift. But when, in 1712, certain gigantic fossil bones,—which would now most probably be referred to the *Mastodon*,—were found near Cluverach, in New England, the famous Dr. Increase Mather communicated the discovery to the Royal Society of London; and an abstract in the *Philosophical Transactions* duly sets forth the comforting opinion of the New England divine, of the confirmation thereby afforded to the Mosaic Narrative, that there were giants, or at least “men of very prodigious stature,” in the Antediluvian world: for one of their teeth, a *grinder*, weighed four pounds and three-quarters, and a thigh bone measured seventeen feet long! Let it suffice for the present that geology in all its trustworthy and well established evidence still affirms that it is only in the latest post-tertiary, or modern strata, that the traces of man and his arts are found: ancient indeed when compared with the times of authentic history or tradition, but only “of yesterday” when placed alongside of the Silurian organisms of our Canadian *Decades*, or even of the vertebrates of Geology's comparatively modern Tertiary formations.