

for the systematic manner in which all the bones of the limbs as well as of the other parts of the skeleton are broken up." *

The chief evidence furnished by archæology of the custom of eating human flesh among the aborigines of New England has lately been presented by Mr. Manly Hardy, of Brewer, Maine. It is founded upon his own investigations into certain shell heaps of the coast of Penobscot Bay. Of these investigations he thus writes to the Peabody Museum of Cambridge:

"After digging some twenty feet horizontally, I found a human bone, a femur, and near by some twenty or thirty more bones of legs and arms, sternum, and portions of a pelvis, but no vertebræ or ribs. The long bones nearly all lay in a slanting position, many of them broken, and the corresponding parts either missing or not near enough to them to be indentified as belonging together. They had no more apparent connection with each other, as the bones of skeletons, than any heap of bones among kitchen refuse would have, and were mixed with bones of moose and beaver, whose teeth were found in considerable numbers, and were mixed with ashes and remains of fires.

"Below all these I came to a lower human jaw lying upon the top of a skull. The jaw was lying teeth side up, but contained but one tooth. In working carefully round the skull, which was placed crown up, I found another skull laid upon its side with the part which joined the neck pressed so close to the first that a knife blade could hardly be placed between them; on taking them out, the jaw fitted to the one on which it lay, and this had but one tooth in the upper jaw. The under skull was without a lower jaw, neither could I find any near it. This skull had nine teeth in the upper jaw. These skulls rested on virgin, yellow earth, which showed no traces of fire, or of ever being disturbed. A piece of granite projected on one side of the upright skull, and the skull was hard against it. The second skull touched this on one side, and on the other was another rock, the two skulls being so closely wedged between the rocks that it was very difficult to remove them. Above them on one side I saw several more bones projecting from the shells; but not having time for more extended search I carefully reinterred all the bones exhumed except the skulls and the bones sent you with them as specimens."

These investigations do not prove that the presence and position of the bones so found are the result of cannibalistic practices. But they do offer presumptive evidence that the shell-heap people of New England

* Seventh Annual Report of Peabody Museum, p. 32, note.