

hand. Although this was, to M. Boucher's mind, a further proof of his theory, the learned world refused to accept it as such, and it was objected to him that these implements were not all like those carefully-shaped and well-sharpened stone-hatchets which are not unfrequently found in the most ancient tombs. M. Boucher then no longer sought allies in the learned world, but amongst the working men in the stone-pits, to whom he made known his object; and in 1840 he was in possession of twenty flints evidently shaped by men, which had been found in diluvial layers. He then gained some adherents to his views, but was still, by the majority of *savans*, believed to be a monomaniac.

Even so late as 1858 the French ridiculed his ideas. The learned societies refused to examine his propositions, and when he offered to make the government a present of his collection, this offer was not accepted. At last, by a happy accident, Mr. Falconer, Vice-President of the Geological Society of London, was induced to visit Abbeville. He inspected the cabinet of antiquities collected by M. Boucher, and gave a report of it on his return to England. From that time many English geologists travelled to Abbeville and to this city, and there appeared, one after the other, Messrs. Prestwich, Evans, Godwin, Austen, Flower, Mylne, Sir Roderick Murchison, and at last the leading English geologist, Sir Charles Lyell. After having carefully examined the drift, they all agreed with M. Boucher, and came to the conclusion that these flint implements were shaped by men, that they were found in virgin soil, that they were connected with the remains of an extinguished species, and that the period of them was anterior to the time when the surface of the earth had received its present configuration. Thus M. Boucher had, as he expressed himself, gained his action in England.

In the neighbourhood of Abbeville, in the valley of the Somme, immense diluvial layers exist, which rise to more than ninety feet above the level of the river. As they are cut through by the fortifications of Abbeville, by canals and by railroads, it is not difficult to examine them. The most important point is near Menchecourt. In some of these layers millions of large flints are met with, amongst which are some evidently shaped by the human hand. These are found from fifteen to thirty-six feet below the surface. The larger of them have probably served for hewing, and M. Boucher calls them hatchets. Close to these implements river and sea-shells were found, such as now only exist in the Nile and other rivers and lakes of the torrid zone; for instance, *cyrene fluminalis* and others. Fossil bones of rhinoceros, mammoths, hippopotami, and an extinct species of oxen, which have been much larger than those of our time, have also been met with there. Near this city, where the geological formation is nearly the same as in Abbeville, the diggings have had the same result. M. Albert Gaudry, who was charged by the Parisian Academy of Sciences to search for such implements, found in a few days nine flints shaped by man, together with shells, fossil bones of large oxen, of a horse and other animals. These hatchets do not at all resemble the cuneiform hatchets which have been found in ancient tombs. They are exclusively made of flint, are of very rude workmanship, and either longitudinal and acute, or oval. M. Boucher believes that they were made by knocking off small pieces by means of hard stones, just as the primitive knives, lances and arrows of the Germans. No polishing or grinding was attempted; the hatchets were either used with the hand as they were, or they were fixed in sticks or clubs. The wood has of course not been preserved, but on the larger specimens there are pegs, to the upper extremity of which the wood was evidently fixed. Narrow blades of stone were also found, which were probably used as knives, and stones with indentations which could be employed as saws.

It was at first always objected to M. Boucher, that the flint implements just described were only found at Abbeville and Amiens, but not in other places. M. Boucher replied to this, that it was not his fault, as indeed all his endeavours to excite colleagues of his to similar researches failed, until one of your countrymen who visited Abbeville, Mr. Prestwich, recollected that at the end of the last century shaped flints had been found close to fossil remains of animals, in the village of Hoxne, in Suffolk. He therefore,