

that the human bone was in the same state of preservation and of the same black colour as the bones of the mastodon and megalonyx, said to have been found with it; and he was disposed to think that he had discussed its probable age with a stronger bias, as to the antecedent improbability of the contemporaneous entombment of man and the mastodon, than any geologist would now be justified in entertaining.\*

The fragment of a human skull from Calaveras, in California, which was said to have been found in gravel beneath five successive overflows of lava, would, if authenticated, be probably the oldest record of man in North America. The same doubts, however, have been expressed about it as about the Natchez remains, no geologist being present when it was exhumed. In the newer gold-drifts of California, along with the remains of the mastodon, elephant, tapir, bison, and horse, the implements of man have been frequently found.†

In the auriferous gravels of Kansas and Georgia stone and flint implements have also been discovered.‡

Dr. Samuel Aughey, in his account of the superficial deposits of Nebraska, states that the remains of elephants and mastodons are often found in the loess that overspreads nearly the whole of the State. In this deposit, in a railway-cutting near Omaha, 20 feet from the surface, he dug out himself a large coarse arrow- or spear-head which lay 13 inches below the lumbar vertebra of *Elephas americanus*.||

Near Alton, in Illinois, stone axes and flint spear-heads along with the bones of the mastodon are reported from drift below loess.§

All the above discoveries are in regions that drain either into the Pacific or the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Chas. M. Wallace has described the discovery by him of flint implements in stratified drift near Richmond, Virginia.¶ These deposits seem to be similar to those in which Dr. Abbott has made his discoveries in New Jersey. The valley of the James River is mantled by thick deposits of coarse gravel covered with brick-clays. The implements have been found occasionally in the clay, and more frequently

\* Antiquity of Man, first edition, p. 200.

† J. D. WHITNEY, Geol. Surv. California, vol. i., p. 252.

‡ Dr. D. WILSON, Canadian Journal of Science, October, 1877, pp. 559,

560.

¶ Geol. Surv. of the Territories, 1876, p. 254.

§ Geol. Surv. Illinois, 1866, vol. i., p. 38.

¶ Amer. Journ. Science, March, 1876, vol. xi., p. 195.