

Schumachoff, a Tungusian hunter and collector of fossil ivory, who had migrated in 1799 to the peninsula of Tamut, at the mouth of the River Lena, one day perceived amongst the blocks of ice a shapeless mass, not at all resembling the large pieces of floating wood which are commonly found there. To observe it nearer, he landed, climbed up a rock, and examined this new object on all sides, but without being able to discover what it was. The following year he perceived that the mass was more disengaged from the blocks of ice, and had two projecting parts. Towards the end of the next year (1801,) the entire side of the animal, and one of its tusks, were quite free from the ice. On his return to the borders of the Lake Oncoul, he communicated this extraordinary discovery to his wife and some of his friends, but their reception of the news filled him with grief. The old men related how they had heard their fathers say that a similar monster had been formerly discovered on the same peninsula, and that all the family of the person who discovered it had died soon afterwards. The mammoth was consequently regarded as an augury of future calamity, and the Tungusian was so much alarmed that he fell seriously ill; but becoming convalescent, his first idea was the profit he might obtain by selling the tusks of the animal, which were of extraordinary size and beauty. The summer of 1802 was less warm and more stormy than usual, and the icy shroud of the mammoth had scarcely melted at all. At length, towards the end of the fifth year (1803,) the desires of the Tungusian were fulfilled; for, the part of the ice between the earth and the mammoth having melted more rapidly than the rest, the plane of its support became inclined, and the enormous mass fell by its own weight on a bank of sand. Of this, two Tungusians, who accompanied Mr. Adams, were witnesses. In the month of March, 1804, Schumachoff came to his mammoth, and having cut off the tusks, exchanged them with a merchant, called Bultunoff, for goods of the value of fifty rubles.

Two years afterwards, or the seventh after the discovery of the mammoth, Mr. Adams visited the spot, and "found the mammoth still in the same place, but altogether mutilated. The prejudices being dissipated because the Tungusian Chief had recovered his health, there was no obstacle to prevent approach to the carcass of the mammoth; the proprietor was content with his profit from the tusks; and the Jakutski of the neighbourhood had cut off the flesh, with which they fed their dogs during the scarcity. Wild