

of Europe. The second lake was gradually lowered by the cutting through of the Bosphorus or the Dardanelles, and the various stages of its subsidence are marked in all the great valleys of Northern and Central Europe. In England the upper boulder clay and the upper brick clays of the Thames and other river valleys were at this time deposited. Flint implements appear to have been found in clays of this age, but they do not indicate, I think, that palæolithic man existed, but that pre-diluvial man had left his nearly indestructible stone-work on the hill-sides, higher than the violence of the debacle reached to, and that shore-ice in the second-lake period sometimes carried these away and dropped them in the clay that was then forming. I noticed, in Dr. John Evans' noble collection of stone implements, with surprise, a fact with which he had been long familiar—the sharp, unworn edges of the implements from the brick clays, and also of a few that have been found on the surface at heights of over 300 feet above the sea. These implements have also a whitened bleached appearance, which may be due to long exposure on the surface before being imbedded in the brick clays.

It is now more than two years since I laid this theory before the Geological Society of London,* and no flaw has yet been pointed out in it, whilst in a series of papers published in this Journal I have shown that many other difficult problems in glacial geology besides those to the solution of which I first applied it find in it a simple explanation. I believe it is the only theory that explains the transport of northern boulders across the plains of Germany and Russia; and at the same time accounts for the absence of marine remains testifying that the sea had not occupied the area during the flotation of the blocks; and the absence of glaciated rock-surfaces showing that the Scandinavian land-ice had not extended so far. It is also the only theory of our day that deals with the difficult question of the origin of a great debacle of which De la Beche, Murchison, Sedgewick, and Prestwich have shown us there is so much evidence. The principal feature in the theory is that the advance of the ice of the Glacial period was mostly down the ocean depressions, partly because ice will gravitate towards the lowest levels, and especially because the precipitation of moisture is in our hemisphere much greater at the northern ends of the seas than in similar latitudes inland on the continents.

* "Drift of Devon and Cornwall." Read November 3rd, 1875. Published in abstract only, Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., February, 1876.