

incisions made by a sharp instrument, which he had recently discovered in the neighbourhood of Paris. He presented me with one of those which he had submitted to the examination of M. Lartet, and which I now lay before the Society, together with the following copy of a note I received from M. Delesse describing this specimen:—

“I send you a fragment of a rib which I recently found at Ver, in the department of the Seine et Oise, about nine leagues from Paris, at the depth of three mètres (nearly ten feet), in a kind of cleft filled by the diluvial soil (*le terrain diluvien*), occurring with the sandstone and sands belonging to the *étage* denominated *les sables de Beauchamp*. It was associated with divers bones of the Stag and Horse, and also of an animal no longer existing in the country, namely, the Beaver. I have submitted this fragment to M. Lartet, with whose profound scientific attainments you are well acquainted but he has not been able to decide whether it belongs to a species of quadruped still living, or to one now extinct. But he considers this small fragment of a rib very interesting, from its having at one extremity traces of a rude operation of sawing, and presenting an appearance very different from that which would be produced by a metallic blade or by a saw. M. Lartet did not rest satisfied with a mere conjecture, but ascertained by experiments on a fresh rib of an Ox that a metallic blade produced an uniform and almost a smooth cut. Hence he concludes that the rib in question had been sawn by flint with a jagged edge. Taking a splinter of flint with a chisel-edge from the sands of Abbeville, he easily sawed a fresh rib, but always obtained an uneven, irregular cut (*des surfaces de resection avec reprises nombreuses*), such as may be observed on the specimen I send you. There is therefore every reason to believe that this rib had been sawn by a flint, and it affords proof of Man having lived in France at the same time as the Beaver, an animal no longer existing with us; and M. Lartet has thus supplied a new and elegant demonstration of the contemporaneity of Man and quadrupeds during the period of the *Terrains diluviens*.”

SUBSEQUENT ADDITION BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The day after the above communication was read, on showing the fragment of bone given to me by M. Delesse above referred to, it was observed that it had a remarkably fresh appearance, that it did not adhere (*happer*) to the tongue as fossil bones usually do, and