

ON THE DISCOVERY OF STONE IMPLEMENTS
IN
GLACIAL DRIFT IN NORTH AMERICA.

THE discovery of great numbers of stone implements in New Jersey, by Dr. C. C. Abbott, in deposits which are probably of Glacial age, is of such great importance that a detailed account of the beds in which they have been found and a discussion of their antiquity will be interesting to many. I had, during the past autumn, an opportunity of studying these beds under the kind guidance of the discoverer of the implements; and I am also indebted to Prof. Cook and Prof. Smock, of the Geological Survey of New Jersey, for much information respecting the glaciation of the State. I shall, in the first place, give a brief statement of what was before known of the earliest traces of man in North America.

Before these discoveries there had been many intimations of the great antiquity of man in the western hemisphere. Probably one of the earliest of these was the discovery of the fragment of a human bone which was said to have been found at the base of 60 feet of loess, near Natchez, on the Mississippi, along with the remains of the megalonyx and other extinct quadrupeds. A full description of the deposits in which these remains were discovered has been given by Sir Charles Lyell, in his "Second Visit to the States."* We learn there that Dr. Dickeson, of Natchez, felt persuaded that the fragment of human bone had been taken out of the clay underlying the loam; but Sir Charles Lyell could not ascertain that it had been actually dug out in the presence of a geologist, or any practised observer, and he speculated on the possibility of it having fallen from above, into the bed of the ravine, from some old Indian grave. This was in 1846: long afterwards, when the discoveries in Europe had established the contemporaneity of man and the great extinct pachyderms, he recalled the fact

* *Op. cit.*, vol. ii., p. 196.