

But the most common situation in which the remains of the beaver are found is the peat-bog or moss-pit. Remains of the European beaver have been found at the depth of eight feet and a half beneath peat; resting upon a stratum of clay, with much decayed, and seemingly charred wood, associated with remains of the great Irish deer, at Higby, Norfolk. Beaver-gnawed wood was found in the same cavity with, and five feet above, the skeleton of the mastodon discovered at Cohoes, near Albany, New York. It appears from the description of Professor James Hall, who personally superintended the removal of the principal bones, that this mastodon was found in a pot-hole excavated in the shale rock (Hudson River group), and more than forty feet below the surface. The remains were imbedded in clay and river ooze, resting upon gravel, and covered with an accumulation of peat. In the presence of this beaver-gnawed wood so near the mastodon, some evidence is furnished that the beaver and the mastodon were contemporaneous.

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### COLD WINTERS.

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#### FOR THE PURPOSES OF COMPARISON.

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The month of January, 1857, was scarcely ever equalled for the low reading of the thermometer (which indicated 9.21 degrees lower than the mean temperature of January for the seven preceding years, and was the coldest January on record here. The mean temperature of the month was 4.05 degrees.

February of the same year was the warmest February on record, the mean temperature being 21.61 degrees, and 8.30 degrees higher than the mean for February for the seven preceding years. The lowest temperature was observed on the 18th January, and was 31.8 degrees below zero. There were three or more cold terms or spells in January of this year. These were felt generally in Canada and through the Eastern and the Northern States. On the 18th January, at Missisquoi, the thermometer attained a minimum of 42 degrees below zero. The fact was furnished by Mr. J. C. Baker. At Sherbrooke, the greatest cold observed was on the morning of the 24th January, when the mercury in the thermometer was frozen in those instruments using it; and Professor Miles, of Lennoxville College, observed his spirit thermometer at 44 degrees below zero; while at Missisquoi, on the 24th, Mr. Baker's record showed a temperature of 24 degrees below zero, and at this place on the 24th day, the mercury stood at 29.6 degrees below zero, and the spirit thermometer stood also at the same temperature. At Watertown, N. Y., on the 18th, the temperature was 36 degrees below zero; and on the 24th, at the same place, frozen mercury was carried about in a vial for exhibition. At Harvard College, at 7 a. m., on the 24th, the thermometer indicated a temperature of 16° below zero,-- at Albany it reached 30°—, at Providence it reached 32°—, at Quebec, 39°.5—; while farther south the weather was somewhat moderate, but was accompanied by very heavy snow-storms.