

NOTES ON THE SKELETON OF A WHITE WHALE OR  
BELUGA, RECENTLY DISCOVERED IN PLEIS-  
TOCENE DEPOSITS AT PAKEN-  
HAM, ONTARIO.

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In August, 1849, portions of the skeleton of a small cetacean were discovered in stratified clay of pleistocene age "on the line of the Rutland & Burlington Railroad in the Township of Charlotte" (Vermont) "about twelve miles south of Burlington, and a little more than one mile eastward of Lake Champlain." These remains were described and figured by the late Professor Zadock Thompson, in the American Journal of Science and Arts for March, 1850, under the provisional name *Delphinus Vermontanus*, which he changed to *Beluga Vermontana*, in 1853, in an Appendix to the "History of Vermont." But it is now quite clear that they belong to the genus *Delphinapterus*, Lacepede, of which *Beluga*, Rafinesque, is a synonym.

More or less complete skeletons of this small whale have since been found in marine deposits of pleistocene age, at Montreal in 1858; at Riviere du Loup (en bas) in 1864 or 1865 (detached bones only); at Cornwall, Ont., in 1870; and on the Jacquet River, N. B., in 1874. By far the most perfect of these is the fine specimen from Cornwall in the museum of the Geological Survey of Canada. It is a nearly perfect skeleton of an adult individual, which, as now mounted, is a little more than twelve feet in length, though a few of the vertebræ are missing. These Canadian specimens, and especially the Cornwall one, have led to the conclusion that Thompson's *Beluga Vermontana* is probably identical, both specifically and generically, with the common White Whale or Beluga (*Delphinapterus leucas*) now so abundant, in a living state, in the lower St. Lawrence and North Atlantic. In his latest list of the fossils of the pleistocene of eastern Canada (Canadian Ice Age, 1893, p. 268) Sir J. W. Dawson says: "there seems no good reason to believe that the *B. Vermontana* of Thompson, from the pleistocene of Vermont, is distinct from *B. catodon*," Gray, which, it may be added, is another well known synonym of