

the explorers have made extensive cuttings through the soil and underlying drift-gravel, down to the slate-rock upon which it rests. During one of these excavations, at a depth of some nine feet, intermingled with the gravel and boulders of the drift, three flint implements were found, measuring between 3 and 4 inches in length, and, according to the description of Mr. Jones, "in material, manner of construction, and appearance so nearly resembling some of the rough so-called flint hatchets belonging to the drift type, that they might very readily be mistaken the one for the others."

In some of the illustrations of American palæolithic art thus adduced, there are undoubted indications of an undue bias in favour of the interpretation of the evidence in the direction of greatest antiquity, even where, as in the case of an implement from Californian gravel drift, the specimen adduced was a polished stone plummet, altogether at variance with any palæotechnic processes hitherto disclosed.

But the most startling discoveries of primitive flint or stone implements were of minor importance, in comparison with the recovery of human remains from the auriferous drift of California. In 1857 Dr. C. F. Winslow produced a fragment of a human skull found eighteen feet below the surface, in the "pay drift" at Table Mountain, in connection with the bones of the mastodon and fossil elephant. A later disclosure brought to light a complete human skull, reported to have been recovered from auriferous gravel, underlying five successive lava formations. Professor Whitney, after inquiries which satisfied himself of the genuineness of the discovery, produced the skull at the Chicago meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in 1869, to the manifest delight of some who were prepared upon such evidence to relegate American man to a remoter epoch than the flint-folk of the Abbeville and Amiens gravel drift. It was subsequent to this startling production of a complete human skull, assumed to be found *in situ*, in the drift, that the highly polished plummet of syenite, in the form of a double cone perforated at one end, was produced before the Chicago Academy of Sciences, as an implement found at a depth of thirty feet, in the drift gravel of San Joaquin, California, by workmen engaged in digging a well. In this case also Professor Whitney appears to have had no hesitation in assigning it to the age of the mastodon.

That flint and stone implements of every variety of form, and every degree of rudeness of primitive art, abound in the soil of the