

of South America were communicated to the scientific world, which seemed to point to like conclusions in reference to the contemporaneous existence of man and the extinct mammalia of the cave deposits; and which even included what have been regarded by some as facts of special significance in reference to the hypothesis of evolution in its relation to the origin of man. A cabinet of the British Museum is filled with fossil bones of mammalia, obtained by Dr. Lund and M. Claussen from limestone caverns in the Brazils closely resembling the ossiferous caves of Europe. The relics were imbedded in a reddish-coloured loam, covered over with a thick stalagmitic flooring; and along with them lay not only numerous bones of genera still inhabiting the American continent, but also of extinct genera of fossil monkeys: the significance of which in relation to the hypothesis of transition through intermediate forms, from the lower primates to man, has since received ample recognition.

The comprehensive aspect which the prehistoric archaeology of Europe is now assuming, with its palæolithic and neolithic subdivisions, its post-glacial and possible inter-glacial and pre-glacial periods, has not been overlooked in America. Its relations to the geological aspects of the great drift formation of the northern continent could not, indeed, escape observation, and has naturally stimulated both the geologists and the archaeologists of the New World to aim at the recovery of corresponding evidence of its palæolithic era. Hitherto, however, the assumed proofs of any such palæotechnic American art, have been isolated and indecisive. A flint knife has been described, recovered from a depth of upwards of fourteen feet among the rolled gravel and gold-bearing quartz of the Grinell Leads, in Kansas Territory. Specimens of flint implements from the auriferous gravel of California were produced at the Paris Exposition of 1855. According to the geological survey of Illinois, for 1866, stone axes and flint spear-heads were obtained from a bed of local drift near Alton, underlying the loess, and at the same depth as bones of the mastodon and other fossil mammals. Other more or less trustworthy reports of discoveries of a like character have been published from time to time. Mr. Charles C. Jones, for example, in his *Antiquities of the Southern Indians*, notes the discovery of seeming palæolithic implements in the Nacoochee Valley, in the State of Georgia. There the river Chattahoochee flows through a rich auriferous region; and, in the search for gold,