

remains, to the very threshold of that prehistoric period which forms the debatable land between geological and historical epochs. Indeed, not the least significant fact in reference to the remarkable disclosures of recent years, is that some of the most characteristic drift implements—such as the spear-head found alongside of a fossil elephant's tooth in the vicinity of Gray's Inn Lane, London; or the large flint implements of the same type obtained from the drift of the Waveney Valley, at Hoxne in Surrey, underlying similar fossil remains,—had been brought under the notice of archaeologists, and deposited in the British Museum, upwards of a century before the idea of the contemporaneous existence of man and the mammals of the drift found any favour.

The conception of the comprehensiveness even of historical antiquity was long trammelled in Europe by a too exclusive devotion to Greek and Roman remains; but the historical relations of the American continent with the Old World are so recent, that for it the fifteenth century is the historic dawn; and anything dating before the landing of Columbus has seemed to be inconceivably ancient. Hence antiquarian speculations and historical research have been almost exclusively occupied on very modern remains; and the supreme triumph long aimed at has been to associate the hieroglyphics and sculptures of Central America, and the architectural monuments of Mexico and Peru, with those of ancient Egypt. But in all that relates to the history of man in the New World, we have to reserve ourselves for further disclosures. There are languages of living tribes of which *neither* vocabulary nor grammar has yet been constructed. There are nations of whose physical aspect we scarcely know anything; and areas where it is a moot point even now, whether the ancient civilization of Central America may not be still a living thing. The palæolithic disclosures of the French drift belong to our own day; and though the researches of the Rev. Mr. MacEnery in the famous Kent's Hole cavern, had fully half a century ago brought to light true palæolithic flint implements in the same red loam which contained bones of the mammoth, tichorine rhinoceros, cave-bear, and other extinct mammalia, it is only now that the true significance of the disclosures of the ossiferous caves of England is being recognized. America was indeed little behind Europe in the earlier stages of cavern research. It is upwards of forty years since discoveries in the ossiferous caves