

deposits, as assumed by most of our geologists up to that time, had not been proved; and I urged that we ought not to allow the matter to remain doubtful when it could be cleared up by sinking a few shafts in different parts of the ground. No action has been taken by our learned societies to whom I appealed, but now discoveries in other places have caused many to doubt the post-glacial age of some of the deposits containing implements, and they may be more inclined to listen to my appeal.

At Hoxne the expenditure of £200 would probably, and of £500 certainly, I think, show the relations of the deposits there to each other, and clear up the question of the glacial or post-glacial age of the beds containing the relics of palæolithic man and the great pachyderms. Large sums, and with results exceeding our anticipations, have been spent on the exploration of the cavern deposits, and we have ascertained definitely from them that man and the great extinct mammals lived at the same time. We should now take another step, and determine the exact position that the same fauna holds in the geological series; and this can be done at Hoxne. We send out scientific expeditions to the ends of the world, and rightly so I think, and yet here is one of the grandest problems that can interest mankind lying at our doors, and lying neglected. Granted that I may be mistaken, and that Prof. Prestwich—whose geological opinion is properly of much greater weight than mine—may be right; is it not worth while to set the question at rest, and not consume our time in fruitless discussions and barren congresses? My glacial theory is the outcome of many years of study of the phenomena with which it deals, and I know that it has been fashioned with sincerity; but it is not so dear to me that I should hesitate to put my own shoulder to topple over the edifice I have reared if I could find reason to believe that it was not founded on truth. If the explorations that I urge, ought to be undertaken at Hoxne, be carried out, and prove that the implement-bearing beds are post-glacial, I shall at least have the satisfaction of thinking that not only has my own geological vision been cleared, but that Mr. Prestwich—whose writings for more than twenty years have been my study and delight—has been proved to be right. But trivial and paltry are these personal considerations compared with the issues that are undetermined, and which it is our duty and privilege to clear up, when we have at Hoxne such an opportunity of doing so as is not known to exist anywhere else in Europe.