

vince, but cannot testify from personal observation to the truth of this statement.

NOTE.—Professor Owen ranks certain remains of the English Stag among the fossils of the British Isles. He says, “the most common fossil remains of the Deer-Tribe are those which cannot be satisfactorily distinguished from the same parts of (*Cervus elaphus*.) which most abounded in the forests of England until the sixteenth century, and which still enjoys a kind of wild life, by virtue of strict protecting laws, in the mountains of Scotland.

The oldest stratum in Britain yielding evidence of a *Cervus* of the size of the Red-deer, is the red-crag at Newbourne. More conclusive evidence of the specific character of this sized Deer is afforded by antlers as well as teeth and bones, and these attest the existence of the *Cervus Elaphus* through intermediate formations, as the newer fresh water pliocene, and the mammoth silt of ossiferous caves, up to the growth of existing turbaries and peat bogs. I found remains of this round antlered Deer in all the collections of mammalian fossils from the fluvi marine crag, and more recent fresh water and lignite beds in Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex. Similar remains have been obtained from the lacustrine deposits in Yorkshire; the head, with antlers, two feet ten inches in length, figured by Knowlton in the “Philosophical Transactions” for 1746, pl. 1, fig 2, was dug out of a bed of sand in the river Rye, in the East Riding of that country. OWEN’S BRITISH FOSSIL MAMMALS AND BIRDS, pages 472 and 473.

## ARTICLE XI.—On the Common Deer, (*Cervus Virginianus*.)

### (GENUS CERVUS.)

#### DENTAL FORMULA.

*Inc's* ve,  $\frac{0}{8}$ ; *Canine*,  $\frac{0}{8}-\frac{0}{8}$ ; *Molar*,  $\frac{6}{8}-\frac{6}{8}$ .—32.

Horns always present in the male, branched, sub-palmated or simple, the horns arising rounded from a burr or rose shaped base, ears large, no canine teeth, a muzzle, tail short and bushy.

The generic name is from the Latin (*Cervus*.) a deer. There are five species of the genus in North America, (see note page 61, last number,) of which only one (*Cervus Virginianus*) ranges into Canada.

#### CERVUS VIRGINIANUS, (Say.)

*Reddish or bluish grey, according to the season, young spotted with white, horns of moderate size, curving forward, with the concave part in front, with from one to six points, occasionally palmated.*

The Virginian deer is a beautiful and graceful animal still abounding in all the newer settlements of Upper Canada, and also though less numerous throughout the South-eastern and Western portions of Lower Canada. In form it is perhaps the most elegant of all the North American deer. It has a long tapering pointed head, and large lustrous bluish black eyes. The legs are slender, but well formed, and in proportion to their size, possessed of prodigious muscular strength, while the body is moderately stout and flexible. The horns are not large, but they are well armed with strong and sharp spikes. They are near their base bent backwards, and in the upper half turned forward. They are usually cylindrical, but they are also sometimes met with a good deal palmated. They vary very much in size and shape, upon