

period, and with like success. Palaeolithic implements have been recovered in this manner in Suffolk, Bedford, Hartford, Kent, Middlesex, Surrey, and other districts in the south of England. So entirely indeed has the man of the drift passed beyond the province of the archaeologist, that in 1861 Professor Prestwich followed up his *Notes on Further Discoveries of Flint Implements in Beds of Post-Pliocene Gravel and Clay*, with a list of forty-one localities where gravel and clay pits or gravel beds occur, as some of the places in the south of England where he thought flint implements might also by diligent search possibly be found; and subsequent discoveries confirmed his anticipations. It has been by the application of the same principle to the drift and river-valley gravels of this continent that a like success has been achieved. The result of a careful study of this tool-bearing gravel of the Delaware may be thus summarized from recent reports of trustworthy scientific observers: The Trenton gravel is a post-glacial river deposit, made at a time when the river was larger than its present volume. It represents apparently the latest of the surface deposits of the upper Delaware valley. Its actual age, "and the consequent date to which the antiquity of man on the Delaware should be assigned, is a question which geological data alone are sufficient to solve."* Dr. Abbott, however, while now recognising it as post-glacial, assumes it to be an immediate relic of the close of the glacial epoch; and he accordingly remarks: "The melting of a local glacier in the Catskill Mountains would probably result, at the head waters of the Delaware, in a continued flood of sufficient volume, if supplemented by the action of floating ice, to form the Trenton gravels."† Whilst, therefore, he abandons the earlier idea of glacial, or inter-glacial man, he still recognizes in the implements of the Trenton valley gravel the evidence of a race of men akin to, and probably contemporary with, the river-drift men of Europe's palaeolithic era.

American archaeologists have undoubtedly been repeatedly deceived by the misleading traces of comparatively modern remains in deposits of some geological antiquity: as in instances already referred to in the California gravel-beds. There, indeed, ground and polished instruments of stone, including a "plumet" of highly polished syenite, "an exhibition of the lapidary's skill superior to anything yet furnished by the Stone Age of either continent,"‡ appear to be not uncommon, in the same post-pliocene formation where the fossil remains of the elephant and mastodon abound. Dr. Abbott has not overlooked the danger to which the archaeologist is thus exposed on a continent which, so far as its aborigines are concerned, may be said to be still in its Stone Age. He accordingly remarked in his original report: "The chance occurrence of single specimens of the ordinary forms of Indian relics, at depths somewhat greater than they have usually reached, even in constantly cultivated soils, induced me, several years since, to carefully examine the underlying gravels, to determine if the common surface-found stone implements of Indian origin were ever found therein, except in such manner as might easily be explained, as in the case of deep burials by the uprooting of large trees, whereby an implement lying on the surface, or immediately below it, might fall into the gravel beneath, and subsequently become buried several feet in depth; and lastly, by the action of the water, as where a spring swollen by spring freshets, cuts for itself a new channel, and carrying away a large body of earth, leaves

* Primitive Industry, p. 547.

† Ibid, p. 545.

‡ Foster's Prehistoric Races, p. 55.