

stalagmite, under which there is a lower bed with bones of quadrupeds.

The cavern of Miallet, near Andure, (department of Gard,) is situated near the banks of the river Gardon. It occurs in magnesian limestone, about 100 feet above the valley : the lower bed or floor of the grotto is a sandy magnesian limestone, covered with a thin bed of stalagmite, and also in several parts, with a bed of argillaceous mud, about five feet in thickness. In this bed the heads and bones of bears were found in great abundance and in a high state of preservation : they were larger than the common cavern bear (*Ursus spelæus*.) A few fragments of bones of the hyena, of ruminating animals, and of birds, were also found with them. Under the stalagmite and a thin stratum of sandy mud, a great number of human bones were discovered in different parts of the cavern. Towards the farther end of the cavern, the human bones are incontestably mixed with the bones of bears, which predominate in that part : but near the entrance, human bones predominate, and appear somewhat more recent. Upon the ossiferous or bone mud, and under a projection of the rock, a human skeleton was discovered almost entire ; near which was a lamp and a small figure in baked clay, and at a little distance were copper bracelets. In other parts of the cave were found fragments of rude pottery, and instruments of flint, the workmanship of a preceding age. The human heads are stated to present indications of belonging to the Caucasian race, but they have a depression of the skull, which M. Tessier supposes to have been produced artificially.

M. Tessier distinguishes three periods during which this grotto was filled : 1st, An antediluvian epoch—that of the bears, which belong to an extinct species ; these he supposes may have lived in the cavern during successive generations, or may have been driven there by some great convulsions. 2d, An epoch of incipient civilization, that of the ancient Celts ; whose bones are intermixed with rude implements of industry. 3d, A Roman epoch, indicated by more perfect works of art. With respect to the mixture of human bones with those of bears, it does not prove that the latter were cotemporaneous with man, because it is obvious that they could not have lived together in the same cavern. The mixture may have been effected by the action of water, or by artificial excavations in the original bone bed, for sepulchral purposes.

Perhaps it may yet be regarded as uncertain, whether these human bones were or were not coeval with those of the cavern bear, the rhinoceros, and other animals ; for we have no decided evidence when these animals became entirely extinct. I am inclined to believe, that the mastodon of North America existed there much later than is generally admitted ; the reason for this opinion will be given in the following chapter. Secondly, we cannot assign a reason why man might not have existed in the tertiary epoch, except that his