

France, November, 1831. The opening of the cavern is situated on the steep declivity of a rock of magnesian limestone, subordinate to lias; it is about 27 feet in height, and 13 feet in breadth. The floor of the cavern, at some distance from the entrance, rises so rapidly to the roof, that it is difficult to stand upon it. The soil is composed of dolomitic sand, more or less intermixed with a greasy mud, and covered, in some parts, with stalagmite. About 170 feet from the entrance, on the lower part of the ascending floor, under a bed of sandy mud from eight to sixteen inches thick, human bones are found in abundance: they are very fragile and light, and intermixed with fragments of pottery. The grotto divides into several low tunnels (*boyaux*.) M. Tessier crawled along some of these descending tunnels, and found numerous bones of bears intermixed with those of men and infants, among dolomitic sand. But the most remarkable circumstance he mentions is, that bones of bears are incrustated with mud, and attached to the roof of the cavern. This proves that the cavern had been filled with bone mud (*limon à ossements*) by the violent action of water, otherwise the bones of bears that inhabited the cavern would all have been found at the bottom. It is most probable that the cavern was originally inhabited by bears, and afterwards inundated by mud and water; that, at a later epoch, it became the residence or sepulchre of a rude people; but was subjected to a second inundation, which drifted the bones of bears and men into the distant low passages. At a still later period, the cavern had been occasionally used for a sepulchre by the Romans, as a skeleton, with a lamp and bracelets, were discovered on the surface of the floor. M. Tessier says, that the river Gardon, before it had excavated its present deep bed, might have occasionally caused great inundations, which filled the cavern with water. Whatever theory may be adopted respecting the former inhabitants of the cavern of Miallet, the bones attached to the roof prove the agency of water, and sufficiently explain the cause by which the remains of bears and men may have been intermixed.