

Lastly, The soil being inundated by land floods at distant intervals only, became a verdant marshy plain.*

34. REMAINS OF MAN IN MODERN ALLUVIUM. —But the sediments in the river valleys of the South Downs often contain not only the bones of the deer, horse, boar, and other terrestrial animals, but also human skeletons, which are sometimes found inclosed in coffins of exceedingly rude workmanship: together with canoes,† and other relics

* Geology of the South-east of England, p. 16.

† *Ancient British Canoe*. In 1835 a canoe was discovered at the depth of several feet in a bed of silt, occupying an ancient branch of the river Arun, at North Stoke, near Arundel. It was presented, by my noble friend the late Earl of Egremont, to the British Museum; and is placed on the right hand of the entrance of the court. This canoe is nearly thirty-five feet in length, four and a half wide in the centre, three feet three inches broad at one extremity, and two feet ten inches at the other; and is about two feet deep. It is formed of the single trunk of an oak, which has been hollowed out and brought to its present shape with great labour; it is evidently the workmanship of a very remote period, and in all probability was constructed by some of the earliest inhabitants of our island, before the use of iron or even brass was known: the original tree must have been fifteen or sixteen feet in circumference. Three projections, left in the interior of the boat, appear to have been designed for seats; it is manifest therefore that the persons who constructed this vessel were unacquainted with the art of forming boards. This canoe is so similar to some of those which were fabricated by the aborigines of North America, when first visited by Europeans, that we can have no hesitation in concluding that it was constructed in a similar manner; namely, by charring such portions of the tree as were to be removed, and scooping them out with