

Big-bone Lick, presented to me by Professor Silliman: this is an example of a young perfect tooth; and this of a very old animal, for the grinding surface is almost worn flat by use. These remains are found at moderate depths, with no marks of detrition; it is therefore evident that the animals must have lived and died in the country where their relics are entombed. The skeletons of the great mastodon found in the bogs of Louisiana are in a vertical position, as if they had sunk in the mire; and one discovered in New Jersey, forty miles to the south of New York, was bedded in black earth, in the same position, the head being on a level with the surface of the soil. There is an entire skeleton of the mastodon in the museum of Mr. Peale, in Philadelphia, which is fifteen feet long and eleven feet high; and by this specimen it has been ascertained that the great mastodon, or animal of the Ohio, as it has been called, was not unlike the elephant, but somewhat longer and thicker. It had a trunk or proboscis, tusks, and four molar teeth in each jaw, and no incisors. From the nature of its food, as shown by the structure of the teeth, it must have frequented marshy tracts, but it was undoubtedly a terrestrial animal. In the midst of a collection of these bones imbedded in mud, a mass of small branches, grass, and leaves, in a half bruised state, was discovered, and a species of reed, common in Virginia; the whole appeared to have been enveloped in a sack, probably the