

drowned.* In their eagerness to drink the saline waters and lick the salt, the heavy mastodons and elephants seem in like manner to have pressed upon each other, and sunk in these soft quagmires of Kentucky.

The greater proportion both of the entire skeletons of extinct animals, and the separate bones, have been taken up from black mud, about twelve feet below the level of the creek. It is supposed that the bones of mastodons found here could not have belonged to less than one hundred distinct individuals, those of the fossil elephant (*E. primigenius*), to twenty, besides which, a few bones of a stag, horse, megalonyx, and bison, are stated to have been obtained. Whether the common bison, the remains of which I saw in great numbers in a superficial stratum recently cut open in the river's bank, has ever been seen in such a situation as to prove it to have been contemporaneous with the extinct mastodon, I was unable to ascertain. In regard to the horse, it may probably have differed from our *Equus caballus* as much as the zebra or wild ass, in the same manner as that found at Newberne in North Carolina appears to have done. (See p. 131.) The greatest depth of the black mud has not been ascertained; it is composed chiefly of clay, with a mixture of calcareous matter and sand, and contains 5 parts in 100 of sulphate of lime, with some animal matter. (Cuvier, *Oss. Foss.*, tom. i., p. 216.) Layers of gravel occur in the midst of it at various depths.

* Darwin's Journal, p. 156; Sir W. Parish's Buenos Ayres, pp. 151 and 371.