

out the rich mud from a small pond newly drained. There were no less than six skeletons, five of them lying together, and the sixth and largest about ten feet apart from the rest. A large portion of the bones crumbled to pieces as soon as they were exposed to the air, but nearly the whole of the separate specimen was preserved. Dr. John Jackson called my attention to the interesting fact that this perfect skeleton proved the correctness of Cuvier's conjecture respecting this extinct animal, namely, that it had twenty ribs, like the elephant, although no more than nineteen had ever been previously found. From the elay in the interior within the ribs, just where the contents of the stomach might naturally have been looked for, seven bushels of vegetable matter had been extracted; and Professor Webster, of Harvard College, had the kindness to present me with some of it, which has since been microscopically examined for me in London by Mr. A. Henfrey, of the Geological Survey. He informs me that it consists of pieces of the small twigs of a coniferous tree of the cypress family; and they resemble in structure the young shoots of the white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*), still a native of North America, on which, therefore, we may conclude that the mastodon fed.

But a still nobler specimen of this great proboscidian quadruped was exhumed in August, 1845, in the town of Newburg, New York, and purchased by Dr. John C. Warren, Professor of Anatomy in Harvard University. It is the most complete, and, perhaps, the largest ever met with. The bones contain a considerable proportion of their original gelatine, and are firm in texture. The tusks, when discovered, were ten feet long; but the larger part of them had decomposed, and could not be preserved. The length of the skeleton was twenty-five feet, and its height twelve feet, the anchylosing of the two last ribs on the right side affording the comparative anatomist a true gauge for the space occupied by the intervertebrate substance, so as to enable him to form a correct estimate of the entire length. Dr. Warren gave me an excellent Daguerreotype of this skeleton for Mr. Clift, of the College of Surgeons in London.

Nothing is more remarkable than the large proportion of ani-