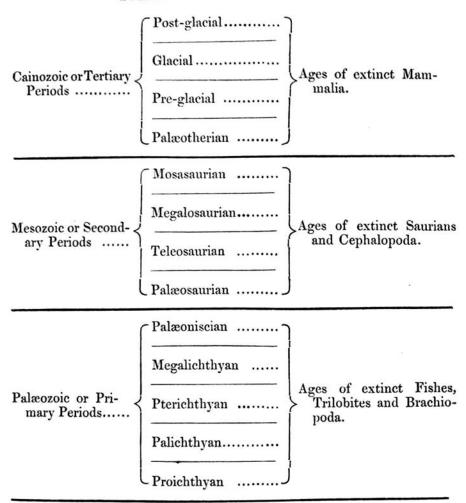
PERIOD OF MAN IN YORKSHIRE.



Unknown; possibly Prozoic or Azoic Periods.

Thus three grand recognizable groups of 'Life Periods' in the natural history of the globe arise, in the latest of which Man—the minister and interpreter of nature*—occupies the last place. Earlier than all these are monuments which entirely elude our grasp—rocks which contain no traces of life, and may perhaps, as many geologists suppose†, have really been formed before the appearance of organic life even in the sea. Let us briefly trace the history of these life-periods.

- * "Homo, naturæ minister et interpres."—Bacon.
- † Murchison calls them Azoic.