

in which they occur. Moreover, from this unsettled state of opinion as to these formations, it does not follow, because one observer announces human remains in drift, that others would admit them to belong to that deposit. When such announcements, therefore, are made, we should draw no inference as to the antiquity of the remains till the discoverer has told us what he means by drift.

I ought, perhaps, to add, that there is a like want of agreement among able writers in the meaning which they attach to the term *fossil*. Originally it included every thing, mineral as well as organic, dug from the earth. Says one distinguished writer, "Geologists now use the word only to express the remains of animals and plants found buried in the earth." — *Lyell*. Says another, "An organized fossil body is one which has been buried in the earth at an undetermined epoch, and has been preserved, or left there unequivocal traces of its existence." — *M. Deshayes*. A third defines a fossil as "every organized body, or vestige of it, found naturally buried in the earth's strata, in a state different from the normal and actual conditions of existence." — *M. D'Orbigny*. A fourth applies the word fossil to "every organic body found naturally buried in the earth, which has been preserved, or has left traces not doubtful of its existence ; provided that the deposit in which it occurs has been formed under the influence of circumstances different from those now passing before our eyes." — *M. Pictet*.*

Now, some writers have taken it for granted, that if they can only make out that man is found in a *fossil* state, he must have lived before Adam. But until the meaning of this term

* *Traite de Paleontologie*, par Professeur F. J. Pictet, Tome Premier, p. 17. See also *Lehrbuch der Geognosie*, von Dr. Carl Friedrich Naumann, *Erster Band*, p. 812. Dr. Naumann's views correspond essentially with those of Sir Charles Lyell.