

render it necessary to scrutinize all such cases as the above, with extreme care, before we can confidently assign a very high antiquity to these supposed fossils; and accordingly, most of the ablest geologists, who have carefully examined the facts in these examples, are not convinced of their reliability.

But suppose we admit all that is claimed in the cases that have been stated, viz., that human remains do occur in such situations as to prove that man was a contemporary of some of the extinct races of animals — will this prove a higher antiquity to man than the Bible allows?

Not necessarily, I reply; for we have undoubted proof that since the biblical epoch of man's creation, several large animals have disappeared from the globe. In New Zealand, for instance, no less than eleven species of gigantic birds, and several other species in Madagascar, Rodriguez, and Bourbon, have become extinct, probably within a few hundred years. For we find their half burned bones mixed with those of man on spots which were once the scenes of cannibal feasts. How false the inference which should hence make these human bones of very great antiquity, because found among extinct animals! Again, the great mastodon of this country often occurs buried in our peat swamps, as at Newburg, only a few feet below the surface; and apparently, therefore, this animal did not perish till a very late epoch in the alluvial period; nor is it possible to show that it may not have been alive since the fifth day's work of creation. Should we then even find a human skeleton in the same deposit as that of the mastodon, we might still reasonably doubt whether it had a preadamite existence.

I trust that these details will not be regarded as inappropriate on the Sabbath, when it is recollected how important to