

and was visited by Professor Buckland in December of the same year. Its greatest length is about two hundred and forty-five feet, but it is so low that there are only a few places where a man can stand erect. A bed of soft mud entirely covers the floor of the cave, and upon removing this the bones were found: The whole of the bottom of the cave, from one end to the other, was strewed over with hundreds of teeth and bones, presenting an appearance like that of a dog's kennel. The greatest quantity were found at the mouth of the cavern, but in all places the bones of both large and small animals were mingled together.

The remains of twenty-three species of animals were found in the Kirkdale cavern; the hyæna, tiger, bear, wolf, fox, and weasel; the elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, and horse; the ox, and three species of deer; the hare, rabbit, water-rat, and mouse; the raven, pigeon, lark, snipe, and a small species of duck. Nearly all these bones presented a fractured and gnawed appearance; and, except teeth, and some hard and solid bones, none were found perfect; but there were some fragments of jaw-bones belonging to the deer, hyæna, and water-rat, which contained their teeth, and were in a state of good preservation.

From the gnawed and fractured state of the bones, the manner in which they were strewed over the floor of the cave, and the great abundance of hyænas' teeth over all others, Dr. Buckland infers that the cavern was the den of hyænas for a long succession of years, and that the bones of other animals are the remains of those bodies which they dragged into the cave for food. During this time there was, as the doctor supposes, an irruption of muddy water, which deposited the bed that now covers the floor of the cavern, and preserved the bones from that destruction which would have resulted from their exposure to the air. Many of the bones were found to be polished on one side, while the other remained rough, which is attributed to the friction produced by the animals walking or rubbing themselves upon the exposed surface. How many hyænas have existed in this cavern cannot be very readily determined; but there is evidence, it is said, of at least two or three hundred. The supposition that the Kirkdale cave was the den of hyænas, is, according to the opinion of the professor, favoured by the certainty that these animals died at various periods of life; for, while