

GEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE  
OF  
THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS ON THE SUBJECTS TREATED OF IN THIS WORK—  
DEFINITION OF THE TERMS RECENT, POST-PLIOCENE, AND POST-TER-  
TIARY—TABULAR VIEW OF THE ENTIRE SERIES OF FOSSILIFEROUS  
STRATA.

NO subject has lately excited more curiosity and general interest among geologists and the public than the question of the Antiquity of the Human Race,—whether or no we have sufficient evidence in caves, or in the superficial deposits commonly called drift or ‘diluvium,’ to prove the former co-existence of man with certain extinct mammalia. For the last half-century, the occasional occurrence, in various parts of Europe, of the bones of Man or the works of his hands, in cave-breccias and stalagmites, associated with the remains of the extinct hyæna, bear, elephant, or rhinoceros, has given rise to a suspicion that the date of Man must be carried further back than we had heretofore imagined. On the other hand, extreme reluctance was naturally felt, on the part of scientific reasoners, to admit the validity of such