

I have also remarked (p. 228) how much farther back in time the origin of man could be carried if any of his remains should be detected in those strata which contain, on the east coast of England, the bones of *Elephas meridionalis*.

In July 1863, after this memoir of M. Desnoyers had imparted a fresh interest to the fossils of Saint-Prest, I revisited that locality, and had the good fortune to be accompanied by M. Desnoyers himself. We examined together the large pit of sand and gravel from which all the fossil bones have been obtained, and my friend pointed out to me, both there and in the public and private collections at Chartres, and on subsequent days in the museum of the École des Mines at Paris, as also in his own house, the evidence on which he relied for establishing the probable coexistence of Man with the *Elephas meridionalis*.

Before commenting on these proofs, it may be well to say that as yet no implement, whether of bone or stone, has ever been met with in undisturbed beds of gravel at Saint-Prest. Had such a discovery been made, the true meaning of the marks about to be discussed, although always a subject of interest, would lose much of their importance, as being superseded by evidence of a higher order. I will also declare at once my belief that all the marks to which M. Desnoyers appeals are as ancient as the time of the entombment of the fossils in the gravel out of which they have been dug, a conclusion which some naturalists, partially acquainted with the facts, have ventured to call in question.

The bones are chiefly referable to the genera Elephant, Rhinoceros, Hippopotamus, and Deer, of which last there are several species. They are scattered sparingly through the whole mass of sand and gravel, which is about 60 feet thick, and covered by a dense deposit of loess, but they occur principally in two beds, one about 45 and the other 80 feet below the surface or top of the loess. It has been suggested that not a few of the scratches, cuts, and furrows may be ascribed to the tools of the workpeople who extracted the bones from the pit, or may have been made by persons who cleaned the specimens, or disengaged them from the matrix. But, in reply to this objection, I may first remind the reader that M. Desnoyers tells us in his memoir that he himself took out carefully from the gravel several bones, displaying the marks in question, and among others the tibia of a rhinoceros, on which some of the most distinct incisions are observable. It should also be stated that the sand adhering to the bones is almost invariably so loose that when dried it falls off of itself. In no case would the aid of hard instruments be required to