

united radius and ulna) of a horse and the humerus of an ox, both entire and perfectly free from any superficial scratches, were placed in the cage in which four porcupines, two of *Histrix cristata* and two of *Histrix javanica*, are kept. They were supplied with their ordinary allowance of vegetable food, more than they usually consume, and at the end of ten days the two bones were taken out. The large ball-headed extremity of the humerus of the ox was all eaten away, and more than half the marrow extracted from the bone. Numerous grooves were also cut, some an inch long, some oblique, but most of them exactly transverse to the length of the bone, and some bending slightly round its convex surface. On the radius of the horse I counted nearly a hundred transverse grooves, scratches, and tooth-marks from a quarter of an inch to an inch in length, some continuous round a small part of the curvature of the bone. Many of the furrows exhibited several straight and very fine parallel striæ exactly like those to which the uneven edge of a flint tool might give rise. The porcupines had also gnawed off a portion of the prominent ridge of the radius of the horse where the bone was very hard, and had left an elliptical scar an inch and a half long, three-fourths of an inch broad, and the fifth of an inch deep in the middle, singularly resembling in shape and general appearance several of the cuts which are conspicuous on a few of the fossil bones of Saint-Prest, but with this difference, that the separate tooth-marks transverse to the length of the bone were distinctly visible on the recent bone. The *Histrix cristata* was seen in the act of gnawing one of the bones, and so few splinters were left behind on the floor that he must have swallowed most of the bony matter. The cage is surrounded by iron bars, intended to exclude rats, and I do not believe that any even of the smaller erosions are ascribable to their intrusion; but assuming this to be the case, it would not affect the bearing of the experiments now under consideration, as it is immaterial to what species of rodent the marks in question may be ascribable. I observed some of the parallel grooves cut by the porcupines crossing at an angle of 40° other older and parallel ones.

No one has acquired more skill in deciphering the true meaning and origin of the various marks and incisions so often seen on bones found in tumuli, and on others derived from the drift, than M. Lartet, whose authority is often cited in the Memoir of M. Desnoyers above referred to. When I showed him, at the time of his late visit to London (August, 1863), two of the bones partially eaten by the porcupines, he said, that the cuts, although not exactly identical with any of those of Saint-Prest, resembled some of those observed on cave-