

Moulin Quignon pits in the April following, and saw many flint hatchets dug out in their presence from the black seam, by a body of 16 workmen. These flint implements, as well as some forty others, said to have been extracted from the Abbeville drift in the course of the preceding month, were all, with one or two exceptions, fresh-looking and entirely devoid of the usual marks of antiquity, so characteristic of the genuine St. Acheul and Abbeville implements. They wanted, for example, the patina or porcelain-like superficial gloss, also all marks of being water-worn on their edges, and an incrustation of carbonate of lime or dendrites of iron and manganese, one or all of which are very generally observed on hatchets of unequivocally ancient date. In shape, also, they differed somewhat, as well as in having their edges quite unworn.

Subsequent observations by Mr. Evans, and others by Mr. Keeping, who was employed by Messrs. Evans, Prestwich, and others to dig in the pits at Moulin Quignon (see *Athenæum* Journal, July 4, 1863, p. 19), established beyond a doubt the important fact, that some of the workmen were in the habit of forging and burying flint tools, having moreover attained no small skill in the art of fabricating them and passing them off as genuine, so that we are entitled to question the verdict of the numerous scientific observers who visited Abbeville in 1863, few of whom, if any, were prepared to treat with due suspicion and scepticism the testimony of the work-people whom they employed. As the characters of these men were at stake, there was naturally a disinclination to impute fraud to any of them; and it is probable that some few only, out of a large number, were a party to the imposition now known to have been practised. For my own part, after reading Mr. Evans's two letters on the subject, I must confess that I feel no confidence that I might not have been myself deceived, had I been present in April, when so many flint tools of 'the new type' were dug out.

Among other signs of the suspected instruments being modern fabrications, Mr. Evans and Mr. Lubbock detected smears, brush-marks and finger-marks upon the flints at the time of their disinterment, the striæ running in various directions, and not being such as might be caused by sliding in the sand. These marks they believe to have been made when the tools were smeared over with mud taken from the 'black seam' into which they were afterwards inserted. Mr. Prestwich, by way of experiment, took a hundred flints from the black seam and found that all of them, except four or five small ones, were stained, whereas none of the suspected implements of the so-called 'new type' were similarly discoloured.