

The evidence of fraud brought to light by Keeping is such as could not easily be obtained except by one who combined the manual dexterity of a workman with scientific knowledge. When wielding his pick he found that the gravel surrounding one of the spurious flint tools yielded more easily, though it had not otherwise the appearance of having been recently moved. On another occasion he observed in the gravel 'a crack in the line where he was working;' and on returning the next morning this crack was nowhere to be seen, it having, as he expresses it, been 'made good,' so as to have the appearance of undisturbed gravel. On cutting away the gravel for a distance of $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the face of the cliff, the base of which was 9 feet 4 inches from the top, he came to a flint hatchet of the new type. On removing this and resuming his work, 'the crack was again to be seen corresponding with the one of yesterday.'* Mr. Evans detected on all the seven specimens dug out by Keeping, marks of their having been 'coloured by hand, and of their being modern forgeries.' He by no means infers that a genuine specimen would not have been obtained had Keeping been employed for weeks to remove a sufficient number of tons of gravel.†

If then, so many of the flint implements are modern counterfeits, a doubt naturally arises as to the authenticity of the jaw-bone itself. May it not in like manner have been introduced by one of the fabricators of the spurious tools into the black seam, to satisfy the demand for human fossils for which a reward had been offered, to be doubled if a bone was shown in situ? It is well known that the absence of human bones in beds so productive of works of art had long been a matter of surprise at Amiens and Abbeville.

In support of the opinion that the jaw has real claims to the geological antiquity assigned to it, it must be admitted that its surface, unlike the fresh-looking flint hatchets above alluded to, is coated over in part with limonite, which must have taken time to form, and was certainly not put on by the workmen. Such, at least, was the conclusion I came to myself after seeing the jaw in July 1863, in the custody of M. Quatrefages at Paris. The bone has also been declared by competent judges to exhibit several anatomical peculiarities rarely found separately, and still more rarely united, in any single European individual. These characters comprise, first, the very obtuse angle formed by the inferior margin of the horizontal ramus with the margin of the ascending ramus; and, secondly, the great bending inwards of the inferior margin.

* *Athenæum* Journal, July 4, 1863, p. 19.

† *Ibid.*