

Now, it is asked, where could a common workman have obtained such an abnormal specimen in order that he might bury it in the 'black seam?' In reply, we have been told that a labourer of Mautort, known to have frequent intercourse with one of the Moulin Quignon men, was employed in 1862 to dig gravel at Mesnières, fifteen miles distant from Abbeville, and that he found there two skeletons in an old (celtic?) filled-up trench. These came into the possession of M. Boucher de Perthes, in whose museum what remained of them were cursorily examined by Mr. Busk. One of the skeletons was that of an adult, and the other that of a young person, perhaps eleven or twelve years of age. Of the latter, a considerable portion of the skull, including the whole of the face, was preserved. When the earth with which the bones were covered was partially removed, it was observed by Mr. Busk and those present that the lower jaw presented a very striking resemblance to that from Moulin Quignon. The differences between the two appeared to Mr. Busk not to be greater than might be attributed to the widely different ages of the individuals. The appearance also of the surface of the bones, so far as it was exposed, was very similar. The Mesnières jaw, however, was not coated with the black deposit by which the other was covered.

Subsequent examination of portions of other bones of the Mesnières skeletons sent to Mr. Busk by M. Boucher de Perthes showed that some of them were sparingly marked with dendrites, and that the amount of animal or organic matter contained in them was pretty nearly the same as in some undoubtedly fossil bones from Menche-court: the latter, however, contained a greater proportion of carbonates, and exhibited more abundant evidence of the presence of fluorine.

May we then suppose, as suggested by Mr. Evans, that the Mautort workman had procured a spare jaw of the ancient race from Mesnières? The absence of limonite on the Mesnières skeleton of the child affords the principal objection to such a conjecture, which is otherwise a very tempting one. What we most require, in order to test the intrinsic evidence of antiquity to which the Moulin Quignon jaw may lay claim, is a careful analysis of the bone itself, which has not yet been made. What percentage of animal matter does it contain? It would also be interesting to know positively whether there is no limonite on any of the bones buried at Mesnières.

While this and other points are unsettled, I cannot feel satisfied as to the authenticity of the Moulin Quignon jaw. At the same time this uncertainty as to the extent to which fraud has been carried at