

From the above statements we may conclude that the race which made use of the ancient burying-place was one of small stature, but this opinion, M. Lartet informs me, was not arrived at by Dr. Amiel, the mayor of Aurignac, as I had supposed when I published the two former editions of this work.

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(p. 204.)

CHRONOLOGY OF THE DELTA OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

IN my work entitled 'A Second Visit to the United States,' vol. 2, p. 248, I attempted to give a rough estimate of the number of years which it would require for the Mississippi to carry down from the Continent to the Gulf of Mexico a mass of solid matter equal to that which now forms the delta and great alluvial plain above the delta. The average annual proportion of solid matter held in suspension by the river was calculated, according to the best data I could obtain in 1845, to be in round numbers to the water as $\frac{1}{3000}$ in volume. The average deduced from later observations does not differ materially from this, but the discharge of water, according to Messrs. Humphreys & Abbot, who have recently surveyed the delta, was much underrated by the earlier experimenters, whose measurement I adopted.

The modern surveyors above cited also remark that the river *pushes along its bottom* into the gulf a certain quantity of sand and gravel, for which I made no allowance, and which, if added to the mud held in suspension in the water would, they suppose, augment the volume of solid matter by about one-tenth. On the whole, they estimate the annual discharge of earthy matter as being twice as great as I made it, which would reduce the number of years required for the growth of the delta and alluvial plain to one-half or to 50,000 years, assuming the average thickness of alluvium to be 528 feet, as I conjectured. But a calculation of this kind would only, as I always maintained, express the minimum of time required for the growth of the delta. The heavy sand and coarser materials would be deposited at the mouth of the river, but large quantities of impalpable mud, held in suspension in the waters,