

But it has been imagined that the close of the reign of ice dates back perhaps a hundred thousand years. There is no evidence of this. The cone of drift materials accumulated at the mouth of the Tinière, in which have been found human remains, was estimated by Morlot to be from ninety-six to one hundred and forty-three thousand years old; but Dr. Andrews has exposed a curious arithmetical blunder, the correction of which reduces the time to within five thousand years. We have no rule for the measurement of post-tertiary time which necessitates the admission of so high antiquity to our race. If we have been accustomed to think of the extinction of the cave-bear as dating back to high antiquity, we now discover that he lived with man, and the reindeer, and other animals which still survive. The existence of even the cave-bear may not have been so very remote. What are the reasons assigned for the prevalent opinion that it was many ages ago that the glaciers began to disappear from Europe? Simply the existence at that time of quadrupeds now extinct, together with the presumption, unsupported, as it seems, by the facts, that no animals have coexisted with man except those of the recent fauna. The fact is, that we come ourselves upon the earth in time to witness the retreat of the glaciers. They still linger in the valleys of the Alps, and along the northern shores of Europe and Asia, while the disappearance of animals once contemporaries of man is still continuing. Not only did contemporaries of man become extinct during the Age of Stone; some survived to the twelfth, fourteenth, and sixteenth centuries, as already stated; the Moa of New Zealand, and the *Æpiornis* of Madagascar, have become extinct within the epoch of tradition, as indeed has the Mammoth of North America; the Dodo of Mauritius disappeared in the seventeenth century; the Great Auk of the arctic regions has not been seen for half a century;