

the north accompanied by Lions and Hyænas, and when the winter cold returned they retreated further south, leaving such snowy land as there was in exclusive possession of White Bears, Musk-sheep, Reindeer, and perhaps hairy Mammoths with a warm coat of wool beneath the long hair. But with the advance of research interglacial episodes began to be established, when, in the language of Mr. James Geikie, there took place 'a great recession of the confluent glaciers consequent upon a change of climate.'¹

In connection with this subject it is now necessary to say something of the bones found in limestone caves, especially as the subject is intimately connected, not only with a large and partially extinct mammalian fauna, but also with the presence of man as a hunting denizen of the British area, at the time in which these carnivorous and browsing mammalia roamed the country.

Bone-caves are often of very old date, and always occur in limestone strata, in which they have been formed in consequence of part of the carbonate of lime having been dissolved. Most solid limestone rocks are jointed: that is to say, they are parted by narrow fissures, often vertical, through which water that falls on the surface can easily find its way. Rain-water percolates through the joints, and the carbonic acid, picked up by the water as it falls through the air, by degrees dissolves part of the limestone, and carries it away in solution in the form of bicarbonate of lime. Running in underground channels, caves have thus been formed, often of great extent, and branching in many directions, through which streams sometimes still run.²

¹ 'The Great Ice Age,' p. 339, second edition.

² The great limestone caves of Kentucky form the most pro-