

historical times, as, for example, in the case of the alluvial meadows of the Ouse, once a commodious estuary, in which the Saxon fleets could ride as far up as Alport, a mile above Lewes. Further north the peats and broad marshy alluvia of the Wash lie on Boulder-clay, and the same is the case with what may be called the recent *warps* of the Humber and much of the loamy alluvial strata that cover the broad plain of York and pass northward to the Tees, between the Oolitic escarpment and the uprising of the western slopes of the Magnesian Limestone and Carboniferous rocks. The gravels and clayey alluvia of the Wear and the Tyne play the same part, beautiful examples of the latter being well seen on the banks of the Tyne below Newcastle, and above that town at the junction of the North Tyne with the larger river. In great part of the Severn valley the same kind of phenomena are apparent, and indeed in many of the river valleys of England the occurrence of old river detritus above the Boulder-clay is not to be doubted.

These gravels and other alluvia were therefore often made by rain and the wasting action of the rivers sometimes working on the Boulder-clays, and sometimes partly wearing out new valleys, and when flooded spreading sediments abroad on their banks. As in the older alluvia, so in these more recent deposits, it is natural that many bones of Mammalia should be found, a few of which may be of extinct species. It is, however, certain, that in the subject of river-gravel Mammalia, there has been a good deal of confusion arising from the habit of their having been assumed to be all of the same age.

I have already stated (p. 482) that after the deposition of the Glacial deposits, Britain, by a considerable