

to be traceable on the astronomical theory of the cause of the Ice Age, which has been already discussed (p. 51). The deposits which record the passage of an interglacial period consist of layers of sand and gravel, such as, over a wide area of central England, separate the two boulder-clays, also deposits of clay and beds of peat found elsewhere in a similar position. To this age also have been assigned the older alluvial terraces which have been preserved chiefly beyond the limits of the second glaciation, and from which

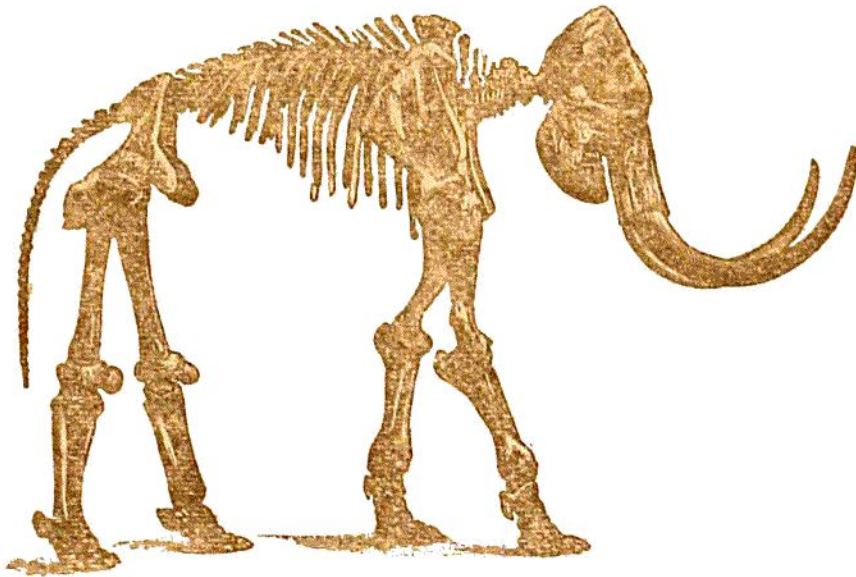


Fig. 455.—Mammoth (*Elephas primigenius*).  
From the Skeleton in the Musee Royal, Brussels (much reduced).

a considerable number of mammalian remains as well as stone implements of human workmanship have been discovered.

During interglacial conditions the climate in the northern hemisphere was probably much more equable and mild than at present, with a higher mean temperature, and at certain intervals a greater precipitation of moisture.<sup>13</sup> From the general aspect of the flora and fauna preserved in interglacial deposits in Britain it may perhaps be inferred that

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<sup>13</sup> J. Croll, *Phil. Mag.* 1885, p. 36.