

feet, no fewer than 6800 bones, teeth, or fragments of bone were obtained, chiefly bison and reindeer, with bears, wolves, foxes, and hares."⁷⁸

France.—It was in the valley of the Somme, near Abbeville, that the first observations were made which led the way to the recognition of the high antiquity of man upon the earth. That valley has been eroded out of the Chalk, which rises to a height of from 200 to 300 feet above the modern river. Along its sides, far above the present alluvial plain, are ancient terraces of gravel and loam, formed at a time when the river flowed at higher levels. The lower terrace of gravel, with a covering of flood-loam, ranges from 20 to 40 feet in thickness, while the higher bed is about 30 feet. Since their formation, the Somme has eroded its channel down to its present bottom, and may have also diminished in volume, while the terraces have, during the interval, here and there suffered from denudation. Flint implements have been obtained from both terraces, and in great numbers, associated with bones of mammoth, rhinoceros and other extinct mammals (p. 1718).

The caverns of the Dordogne and other regions of the south of France have yielded abundant and varied evidence of the coexistence of man with the reindeer and other animals either wholly extinct or no longer indigenous. So numerous in particular are the reindeer remains, and so intimate the association of traces of man with them, that the term "Reindeer period" has been proposed for the section of prehistoric time to which these interesting relics belong. The art displayed in the implements found in the caverns appears to indicate a considerable advance on that of the chipped flints of the Somme. Some of the pictures of reindeer and mammoths, incised on bones of these animals, are singularly spirited (Fig. 461).

Germany.—From various caverns, particularly in the dolomite of Franconia (Muggendorf, Gailenreuth) and in the Devonian limestone of Westphalia and Rhineland, remains of extinct mammals have been obtained, sometimes in great numbers, including cave-bear (of which the remains of 800 individuals have been taken out of the Gailenreuth cave), hyæna, lion, rhinoceros, and others. From the cavern of

⁷⁸ Boyd Dawkins, "Early Man in Britain," p. 188. The reindeer has yet not been found in such abundance in the English caverns as in those of Southern France.