

vation, and enveloped in a deer skin covered with hair, which there is every reason to conclude was that of the elk. A rib of the elk has also been found, in which there is a perforation, that evidently had been formed by a pointed instrument while the animal was alive, for there is an effusion of callus or new bony matter, which could only have resulted from something remaining in the wound for a considerable period ; such an effect, indeed, as would be produced by the head of an arrow or spear.* There is, therefore, presumptive evidence that the race was extirpated by the hunter-tribes who first took possession of these islands.

Beds of gravel and sand, containing recent marine shells and bones of the Irish elk, have been observed by Dr. Scouler in the vicinity of Dublin, at an elevation of two hundred feet above the level of the sea. It is therefore manifest that this extinct quadruped, although found in peat-bogs and morasses at a comparatively recent period, must have been an inhabitant of Ireland antecedently to some of the last changes in the relative position of the land and water. The discovery of a vast number of skeletons of the elk in the small area of the Isle of Man, seems to indicate a great alteration in the extent of land and sea ; for it is difficult to conceive that such herds of this gigantic race could exist in so limited a district ; and it is therefore probable that the island was separated from the

* Jameson's Cuvier.