

sometimes shelly, which contain fragments washed out of the older clay, and worn and rounded in various degrees.

POST-GLACIAL PERIOD.—To this submersion we may perhaps attribute the extinction in our district of many of these “antediluvian” or “pre-glacial” animals; for after the land rose again, so as to admit of freshwater lakes in hollows of the boulder clay and gravel beds, we find but few of the forms of life analogous to tropical species. It is the Irish Elk, the Red Deer, and Fallow Deer, which most frequently lie in the old lacustrine deposits.

This last great elevation laid dry the old sea-channels of the Vale of York, the Vale of Pickering, and Holderness; exposing in each the boulder clay and other aggregations of the glacial period to rapid waste by shore currents and land streams. These causes are still in operation, following out the design of perpetual but regulated change on the face of nature; nor does any evidence appear that they have ever been interrupted here by epochs of great violence. No sudden movement has disturbed the relative level of the land and sea; no extraordinary change of climate has destroyed the races of animals and plants, or greatly modified the qualities of the atmosphere. The land and sea, the hills and valleys, the rains and winds, the clouds and atmosphere of the present day, may be regarded as unaltered in main features since the retirement of the boreal ocean; it cannot therefore be surprising that remains of man and the works of man should appear in the deposits of this age, though not in the earliest of them, along with bones of many animals essential to the comfort of human existence.

FAUNA OF YORKSHIRE.

Let us now survey the successive phases of animal and vegetable life which occupy the latest æras of geology, and consider them in relation to the earliest historic periods.

The pre-glacial fauna of Yorkshire is chiefly known to us by the