

is between 50,000 and 60,000 feet, and at least 30,000 species of animals differing from any now alive have been disinterred in the rocks. Yet man is not among them. But no reason can be given why he is not, had he lived in any of the periods before the alluvial; for his bones, being composed of the same materials as those of other animals, would be no more subject to decay than theirs; as is proved, in fact, by their appearance upon ancient battle fields, where they lie mingled with those of horses and elephants.

The precise period when man first appeared on earth has been a question of deep interest among scientific men, and their eyes have been wide open to every fact bearing upon the subject. In earlier times, when comparative anatomy was in its infancy, the bones of other animals were mistaken for those of man, and in one case a fossil man was announced quite deep in the rocks, which turned out, beneath the scrutinizing glance of Cuvier, to be a gigantic salamander; and the bones of mammoths were in Switzerland regarded as those of giants, and in England as those of the fallen angels. But since comparative anatomy has applied to fossil bones principles and modes of investigation little less certain than those of mathematics, every able geologist has abandoned the expectation of finding human remains below the superficial deposits, the lowest of which are, in a geological sense, very recent. In the words of Sir Charles Lyell, "If there be a difference of opinion respecting the occurrence in certain deposits of the remains of man and his works, it is always in reference to strata confessedly of the most modern order; and it is never pretended that our race coexisted with assemblages of animals and plants of which all, or even a large proportion of the species, are extinct."

It is well known that geologists have divided those loose