

the most part, formed by subterranean streams, which carried the bones into them from without, and, therefore, those of widely different periods might have been mixed together. Again, earthquakes often produce great changes in these streams, and mix up confusedly alluvium and drift. Once more, such caverns have in various periods been tenanted by man; and there has he buried his dead, while succeeding generations have dug up their bones, and mixed them with those of the extinct animals. We need not wonder, therefore, that the most cautious geologists have hesitated to admit that in any of the cases yet described, the evidence compels us to believe that the human remains were deposited at the same time with those of extinct hyenas, bears, and mastodons. In the language of Sir Charles Lyell, "It is not on the evidence of such intermixtures that we ought readily to admit, either the high antiquity of the human race, or the recent data of certain lost species of quadrupeds."

In our own country several examples of fossil men have been announced, of late, with much confidence. At Natchez, it is said that a human pelvis was found in clay, beneath "a diluvial deposit;" in Florida, a jaw and foot in a conglomerate coral reef, limestone, said to be at least ten thousand years old; another beneath four ancient cypress swamps, near New Orleans, sixteen feet below the surface, whose period of sepulture has been put at 57,600 years ago.

Every practical geologist knows well how extremely uncertain are all such calculations of the time requisite to form an alluvial deposit of a given thickness; first, because we have so very few data for comparison, and secondly, because the work is so very different in some places from what it is in others. Moreover, the many causes by which the remains of recent animals might become mixed with the extinct ones,