

Fig. 406.



Fossil Man.

and in Brazil. In these cases the bones both of man and the animals are usually separated from one another, so that no whole skeletons exist, and often the human remains are found only in the upper part of the deposits.

We should call these relics fossils. But several difficult questions must be settled before we can say confidently that they were not introduced into these caverns subsequent to that of the extinct species. For often such caverns, in rude times and in days of persecution, were inhabited by men, who buried their dead there. Again, carnivorous animals often dragged in there for food the bones of other animals. Streams, also, have sometimes, especially in time of flood, drifted bones as well as other things into the caverns, and deposited them promiscuously, and sometimes earthquakes have changed the original levels and mixed together

drift and alluvial deposits. It is a reasonable conclusion, then, as Sir Charles Lyell remarks, that "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 date of certain lost species of quadrupeds."

Appeal has also been made to cases of human bones, arrow-heads, pottery, etc., in alluvial deposits on the banks and at the mouths of rivers. These cases occur in the south of France, at the mouth of the Nile, at Natchez, on the Mississippi, etc. But here again we have many difficult questions to settle as to the rate at which river deposits are made, as to the changes in that rate, as to the power of heavy substances to sink through semi-plastic materials, etc., before we can be certain that man was a cotemporary of very ancient extinct animals.

The point of chief interest affected by these investigations, is the question whether any of the facts conflict with the common