

in a paper presented to me when I last saw him in Paris, in August, 1863 :—

‘I was wrong in figuring in the interior of the sepulchral cavern the human skeletons in the bent attitude in which they are represented, and as they so often occur in ancient burying-places. On making a careful examination of the walls of the little grotto, during a third visit in 1862, I found in a recess, or smaller hollow of the south wall, a mass of bones, all bound together by a sort of concretionary matrix. Among the bones were several of the human foot, half a radius of the reindeer, a fragment of reddish pottery, and a little below a calcaneum of an elephant, attached to the same concretionary and calcareous mass which adhered to the walls of the grotto. All these were at a very high level above the floor, and about two feet only below the top or centre of the arch of the cave. The finding a human foot at this height contradicts my supposition as to the squatting attitude given to the bodies, which were probably all buried horizontally and in successive superposition. It also explains how Bonnemaïson, by putting his hand and arm into the rabbit’s hole, might easily have pulled out a long bone. I may also add that the elephant’s calcaneum, although presenting nearly the same appearance of alteration as the various other bones taken out of the burying-place, had evidently been gnawed by large carnivora before it was introduced into the cave. It is the only gnawed bone that has been found in the interior of the sepulchral vault; and by the elevated position it occupies, one is led to conclude that it was placed there at the time of some of the last interments in this grotto.

‘On the occasion of my third visit, I determined to search the refuse heap cast up during the first diggings by Bonnemaïson, when they carried away the human bones to the cemetery of Aurignac. This heap of rubbish, lying to the left of the grotto, was covered with vegetation, and Bonnemaïson assured me that nothing had been left in it. I found, however, a hundred worked flints in it, some teeth and bones of carnivora, bones also of reindeer, ox, and rhinoceros, besides sixty-eight human bones, principally of the hands and feet, and a human half-jaw containing teeth, all referable to adult individuals of small size, except two pieces, which may have belonged to an individual, if not of great height, at least relatively pretty large. I have also found among this rubbish a great number of fragments of pottery, some dried in the sun, others half baked, but all made by hand, and of clay of different fineness. I obtained from the same heap several ornaments made of the hard parts of the bones of the ear of the horse or ox.’