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(p. 338.)

REMAINS OF A HUMAN SKELETON FOUND BY M. BOUÉ IN THE  
LOESS OF THE RHINE IN 1823.

AFTER I had printed the sixteenth chapter of this work, which treats of the loess, I was reminded by my friend M. Ami Boué that so early as the year 1823 he had disinterred with his own hands many bones of a human skeleton from ancient undisturbed loess at Lahr, a small town in the Grand Duchy of Baden, nearly opposite Strasbourg, on the right side of the valley of the Rhine. I could not at the time avail myself of this information without delaying for several weeks the publication of my first edition, as I required time to examine critically into the evidence. Having now read the original memoirs of M. Boué, and corresponded with him on the subject, I have no hesitation in declaring my opinion that the conclusions at which he arrived are fully borne out by the facts. In replying to some of my queries, he has had the kindness to refer to the field notes which he made on the spot, first in 1823, and again in 1829, when he revisited Lahr.

The small town last mentioned is four miles distant from the Rhine, and about 100 feet above the level of the great river. It is situated near the point where the tributary valley, drained by the small stream called the Schutter, flowing from the Black Forest, joins the great alluvial plain of the Rhine. In this part of that plain the loess is at least 200 feet thick, and small hills and valleys have been excavated in it. A portion of the formation passes up from the principal into the tributary valley, the sides of which it skirts, rising to the height of eighty feet or more above the Schutter. It has been denuded at Lahr, so as to form a succession of terraces on the right bank of the small stream. On examining the lowest of these terraces, M. Boué saw, in the face of a perpendicular cliff of loess, about five feet high, a large bone projecting, which proved afterwards to be a human femur. On digging into the cliff the bones of nearly half a skeleton were obtained, consisting of the femur, tibia, fibula, ribs, vertebræ, metatarsals, and others; but no skull. They lay in a nearly horizontal position, but not as if they were part of a corpse which had been buried there.

The enveloping loess was solid, not like loess-mud washed down