

logically and in its remains. And I would appeal, in justification of the preference, to the great superiority in interest and value of the recently published *Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*, by our accomplished townsman Mr. Daniel Wilson, over all the diffusive narrative and tedious description of all the old chroniclers that ever wore out life in cloister or cell.

What may be properly regarded as the geological deposits or formations of the two prehistoric periods in Scotland,—the period of stone and the period of bronze,—are morasses, sand dunes, old river estuaries, and that marginal strip of flat land which intervenes between the ancient and the existing coast lines. The remains of man also occur, widely scattered all over the country, in a superficial layer, composed in some localities of the drift-gravels, and in others of the boulder-clay; but to this stratum they do not *geologically* belong: they lie at a grave's depth, and have their place in it through the prevalence of that almost instinctive feeling which led the patriarch of old to bury his dead out of his sight. Most of the mistakes, however, which would antedate the existence of our species upon the earth, and make man contemporary with the older extinct mammals, have resulted from this ancient practice of inhumation, or from accidents which have arisen out of it.

All our Scotch morasses seem to be of comparatively modern origin. There are mosses in England, or at least buried forests, as on the Norfolk coast, at Cromer and Happisburgh, that are more ancient than the drift-clays and gravels; whereas, so far as is yet known, there are none of our Scotch mosses that do not *overlie* the drift formations; and not a few of their number seem to have been formed within even the historic ages. They are the memorials of a period, spread over many centuries, which began after Scotland had arisen out of the glacial ocean, and presented, under a softening climate, nearly the existing area, but bore, in its