

bones of these supposed giants served to give rise in England occupy a place in the first chapter of the country's history, as told by the monkish chroniclers, and have their grotesque but widely-known memorials in Gog and Magog, the wooden giants of Guildhall: our Scottish legends of the same class are less famous; but to one of their number, —charged with an argument in behalf of the temperance cause of which our friends the teetotallers have not yet availed themselves,—I may be permitted briefly to refer, in the words of one of our elder historians. 'In Murray land,' says the believing Hector Boece, 'is the Kirke of Pette, quhare the bones of Litell Johne remainis in gret admiration of pepill. He hes bene fourtene feet of hicht, with squaire membres effering thairto. Six yeirs afore the coming of this work to licht (1520) we saw his henche bane, as meikle as the haille banes of ane manne; for we schot our arme into the mouthe thairof; be quhilk appeirs how strang and squaire pepill greu in oure regeoun afore thay were effeminat with lust and intemperance of mouthe.'

Under these pre-glacial forests of England there rests a marine deposit, rich in shells and quadrupedal remains, known as the Norwich or Mammaliferous Crag; and beneath it, in turn, lie the Red and Coralline Crags—members of the Pliocene period. In the Mammaliferous Crag there appear a few extinct shells, blent with shells still common on our coasts. In the Red Crag the number of extinct species greatly increases, rising, it is now estimated, to thirty per cent. of the whole; while in the Coralline Crag the increase is greater still, the extinct shells averaging about forty per cent.<sup>1</sup> In these deposits some of our best-known molluscs appear in creation for the first time. The common edible oyster (*Ostrea edulis*) occurs in

<sup>1</sup> The known species of shells in the Coralline Crag amount to three hundred and forty. Of these, seventy-three are living British species. See Woodward's *Manual*, part iii. p. 421.—W.S.