from the general flatness, retained it till its return. But on this occasion, the surface-water had found an unwonted drainage, through the upright sectional front, into the newly excavated bed of the stream. It sank through the upper arenaceous layer as through a filtering stone, and then came rushing through the stratum of shells underneath, brown with the sand which it swept from their interstices. Nor could there be a completer sifting process. For yards and roods together the shells were as thoroughly divested of the sandy matrix in which they had lain as if they had been carefully washed in a sieve. I was bold enough to infer from the phenomenon at the time, that the problem of the unmixed accumulations of shells may be, in at least some cases, not so difficult of solution as has been hitherto supposed. One has but to take for granted conditions such as those of the estuary of Nigg,—the incoherent bed, half a quicksand, and the subarenaceous deposition,—to account for their original production, and the superadded conditions of the surface-water and the free drainage, to account for their after clearance of extraneous matter.

CAUTION TO GEOLOGISTS ON THE FINDING OF REMAINS.

In consolidated slopes it is not unusual to find remains, animal and vegetable, of no very remote antiquity. I have seen a human skull dug out of the reclining base of a clay bank, once a precipice, fully six feet from under the surface. It might have been deemed, not without a degree of plausibility, the skull of some long-lived contemporary of Enoch, —perchance that of one of the accursed race,—

'Who sinned and died before the avenging flood.'

Nay, a fine theory was in the act of being formed regarding it, which affected the whole deposit; but, alas! the labourer dug a little further, and struck his pickaxe against an old