

declared the teeth to be those of a Hippopotamus ; the tusk and the gigantic femur, according to his report, belonged to an Elephant ; so that they were not even considered to be parts of one and the same animal. Buffon did not share this opinion, and he was not long in converting Daubenton, as well as other French naturalists, to his views. Buffon declared that the bones belonged to an Elephant, whose race had lived only in the primitive ages of the globe. It was then, only, that the fundamental notion of extinct species of animals, exclusively peculiar to ancient ages of the world, began to be entertained for the first time by naturalists—a notion which laid dormant during nearly a century, before it bore the admirable fruits which have since so enriched the natural sciences and philosophy.

Buffon gave the fossil the name of the *Animal or Elephant of the Ohio*, but he deceived himself as to its size, believing it to be from six to eight times the size of our existing Elephant ; an estimate which he was

led to make by an erroneous notion with regard to the number of the Elephant's teeth. The *Animal of the Ohio* had only four molars, while Buffon imagined that it might have as many as sixteen, confounding the germs, or supplementary teeth, which exist in the young animal, with the permanent teeth of the adult individual. In reality, however, the Mastodon was not much larger than the existing species of African Elephant.

The discovery of this animal had produced a great impression in Europe. Becoming masters of Canada by the peace of 1763, the English sought eagerly for more of these precious remains. The geographer Croghan traversed anew the region of the Great Salt Lake,

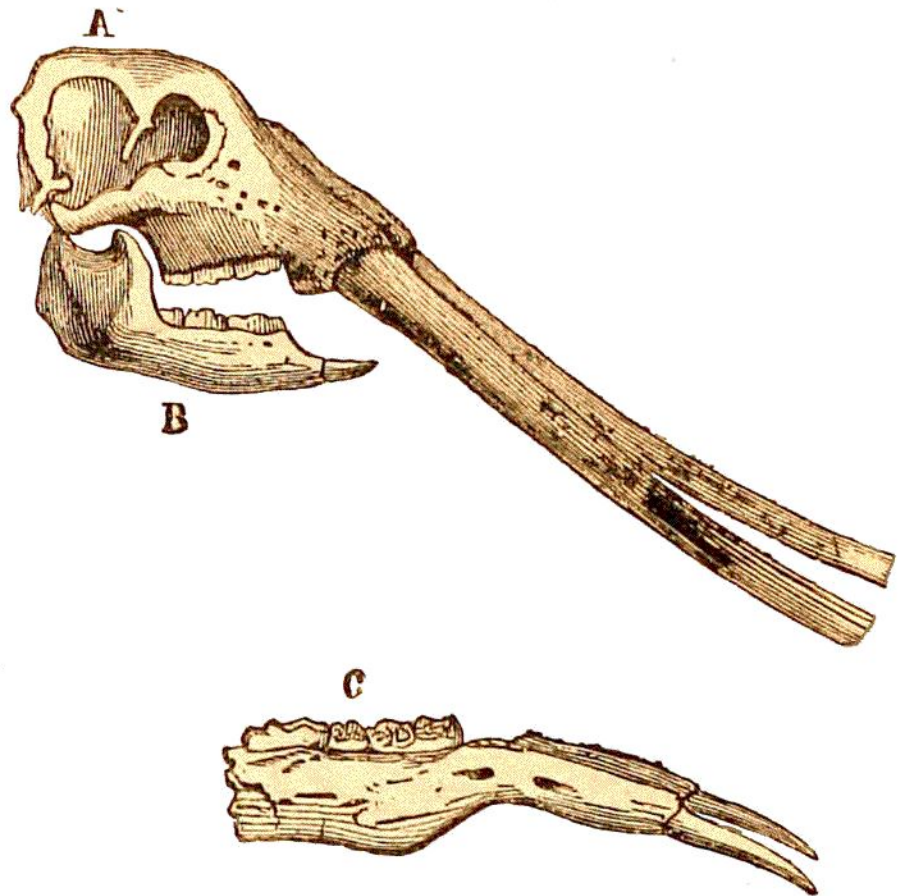


Fig. 162.—Head of the Mastodon of the Miocene period.
A, B, the whole head ; C, lower jaw.