

ing must be resorted to, and this sometimes becomes enormously expensive. In regions where the strata repose in nearly horizontal positions, the underlying coal beds are reached through vertical shafts. In such cases, pumping machinery is essential. Not unfrequently, one shaft is extended down to a second or third bed of coal. In any case, after the coal is reached, chambers or galleries are excavated in rectangular directions in the bed. The roof is supported by large blocks of coal left undisturbed. After most of the coal has been thus removed, the supporting blocks are worked out successively, and the roof of the mine may be permitted to fall in.

AMONG THE FOSSILS.

XXVII. MONSTERS OF A BURIED WORLD.

EXTINCT QUATERNARY MAMMALS.

“MR. JOHN SMITH, of the town of Sharon, in digging a ditch to drain a swamp on his farm, exhumed some very large bones which must have lain buried for many thousand years. They appear to be the bones of a giant. They will be offered to the University for sale.”

“Mr. Peter Jones discovered last week in a peat bed, a nearly complete skeleton of some antediluvian monster. Mr. Jones will have the skeleton set up as soon as possible, and will then start on a tour of exhibition. He feels confident there is a fortune in these bones.”

The above are samples of paragraphs frequently appearing in the newspapers. They indicate that the peat bogs of our country contain many relics of beings no longer in existence, and no longer remembered. Those, however, who have had much intercourse with the aborigines of the country, inform us that a tradition exists of an immense quadruped—“the