

Drift epoch. We may conclude, therefore, that the Elephant came down from the Tertiary Age. Indeed, we shall see from the facts to be stated in the next Talk, that both Elephant and Mastodon began to exist before the Quaternary Age.

Some very remarkable facts have come to light from northern Siberia. That inhospitable region was once a home for tropic loving Elephants. More than a hundred years ago, not only their ivory, but their carcasses, were known to exist in Siberia imbedded in solid ice. The first discovery was on the borders of the Aleseia River, which flows into the Arctic Ocean beyond the Indigirka. The body was still standing erect, and was almost perfect. The skin remained in place, and the hair and fur were still attached in spots. In 1772, the body of a perfect two-toed rhinoceros covered with hair, was found preserved in frozen gravel near the Vilhoui or Wiljui, a tributary of the Lena, in latitude 64°. The head and feet of this animal—also related to tropical species—are preserved in St. Petersburg. The most celebrated discovery was made in 1799. A Tungusian fisherman named Schumachoff was exploring along the coast of the frozen ocean for ivory. Near the mouth of the Lena he noticed, in a huge block of clear glacier ice, a dark, strange object deeply imbedded. His half savage curiosity was not strong enough to lead him to undertake the work of exploration. In 1801 the melting of the ice had exposed a portion of the carcass. It was a beast like those whose ivory lay strewn along those frozen shores. In 1804, the Tungusian was able to remove the tusks. They weighed three hundred pounds, and he disposed of them for fifty rubles, to an ivory merchant. In 1806, Mr. Adams, who was collecting for the imperial museum at St. Petersburg, found the carcass still on the shore, but greatly mutilated. It appeared that the Yakutski had actually regaled their dogs upon the flesh; and bears, wolves, wolverines, and foxes had gladly feasted upon it! Fresh meat already laid away in ice before that garden was planted in Eden! Thus this priceless relic of a prehistoric world was allowed to waste away. But it was not completely lost to