

Add to this, from the known habits of several races of the ancient Celts to live in caverns, of which many are preserved in the provinces bordering the Loire and the Rhone, it may be readily believed that the human bones with pottery, in the caverns of part of ancient Aquitaine and the Narbonnaise, belonged to some of the wretched Gauls, whom Cæsar caused to perish in these caverns.

Where, says M. Desnoyers, the mixture of human bones and those of quadrupeds is more complete, currents of water might have effected a movement and intermixture (*remaniement*) of a more recent date. The hatchets of flint and other rude instruments found in these caves, are such as are found also in the tumuli of the ancient Celts, and were in use in the time of Cæsar.

M. Desnoyers thinks the most ancient of these bones are Gaulic or Celtic: others belong to a more recent epoch. He examined the rich collection of Celtic coins in the Bibliothèque Royale; on many of them he observed figures of animals, such as the boar, the horse, the wild ox, and the stag; and more rarely symbolic or monstrous animals, but no figures of the rhinoceros and other extinct races, which, had they been co-existent with man, there might have been reason to expect.

M. Tournal, who first discovered human bones in the cavern at Bize, maintains a contrary opinion, and he applies the same conclusions to the bones of mammiferous animals in other caverns. The caverns of Bize (Aude) contain bones of the stag, the camel, the roebuck, the antelope, and bear; those of Sommières (Gard) contain bones of the rhinoceros, the ox, the horse, the stag, and the hyena. M. Tournal concludes from the state of the bones, that they are antediluvian, and that before the last general catastrophe (*cataclysm*) southern Gaul was inhabited by man, together with a great number of species of mammiferous animals now extinct.

The cavern of Rancogne, situated three leagues from Angoulême, is one of the largest in France, and has long been celebrated for its quantity of stalactites; but under the stalagmite and alluvial soil on the floor of the cavern, a great quantity of human and quadrupedal bones have been found, mixed with fragments of pottery and with pebbles from the adjoining rocks. A brook still traverses this grotto. The river Tardonère, which runs at a little distance, loses a part of its waters in other gulfs in the country; it often overflows, and has penetrated into the cavern of Rancogne. The traditions of the country preserve the remembrance of the cavern having served the inhabitants as a place of refuge at different periods, and that wolves, which abound in the forest of Braconne, commonly retire into it and carry with them their prey, and human bodies, which they exhume from the neighbouring cemetery.

This mode of filling the cavern (observes M. Desnoyers) differs much indeed from the antediluvian theory of M. Tournal. Some grottoes contain human bones in the upper alluvial soil, over a bed of