

floor was occupied by a bed of indurated mud, covered over with a thick crust of stalagmite; the roof and sides being invested with a similar calcareous sparry coating, as is commonly the case in all fissures in limestone rocks.\* From this cave were obtained numerous bones of hyenas, associated with bones, more or less fractured, of a species of tiger, bear, wolf, fox, weasel, elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, horse, deer, ox, hare, or rabbit, mouse, water-rat, and fragments of skeletons of ravens, pigeons, larks, and ducks. Many of the bones exhibited marks of having been gnawed, and crushed by the teeth of some animals. From all the facts observed, and which are detailed by Dr. Buckland with his wonted graphic power, it is inferred that the cave was inhabited for a considerable period by Hyenas; that many of the remains found there were of species carried in and devoured by those animals, and that in some instances the hyenas preyed upon each other. The portions of bone referable to the elephant seem to prove that occasionally the large mammalia were also obtained for food; but it is probable that the smaller animals were either drifted in by currents of water, or fell into the chasm through fissures now closed up by stalactitical incrustations. Kent's Cave, near Torquay, Oreston Cave, near Plymouth, and several other caves in

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\* For a general description of the cave at Kirkdale, see *Wond.* pp. 169—172; and for details, *Reliq. Diluv.* pl. 1—12.