

Human Remains in the Loess near Strasbourg.

M. Ami Boné, well known by his numerous works on geology, and a well-practised observer in every branch of the science, disinterred in the year 1823, with his own hands, many bones of a human skeleton from ancient undisturbed loess at Lahr, nearly opposite Strasbourg, on the right side of the great valley of the Rhine. No skull was detected, but the tibia, fibula, and several other bones were obtained in a good state of preservation, and shown at the time to Cuvier, who pronounced them to be human.*

Human Remains in Loess near Maestricht.

The banks of the Meuse at Maestricht, like those of the Rhine at Bonn and Cologne, are slightly elevated above the level of the alluvial plain. On the right bank of the Meuse, opposite Maestricht, the difference of level is so marked, that a bridge, with many arches, has been constructed to keep up, during the flood season, a communication between the higher parts of the alluvial plain, and the hills or bluffs which bound it. This plain is composed of modern loess, undistinguishable in mineral character from that of higher antiquity, before alluded to, and entirely without signs of successive deposition, and devoid of terrestrial or fluviatile shells. It is extensively worked for brick-earth to the depth of about eight feet. The bluffs before alluded to often consist of a terrace of gravel, from thirty to forty feet in thickness, covered by an older loess, which is continuous as we ascend the valley to Liége. In the suburbs of that city, patches of loess are seen at the height of two hundred feet above the level of the Meuse. The table-land in that region, composed of Carboniferous and Devonian rocks, is about four hundred and fifty feet high, and is not overspread with loess.

* See Appendix K.