

of any kind been observed. I have myself looked over about 150 of them in Colonel Wood's collection, without being able to detect any marks. In Bosco's Den no human bones or implements were discovered; but in the neighbouring cave, called Long Hole, where the same zealous and skilful explorer detected flint knives beneath the skull of *Rhinoceros hemitæchus*, several fossil bones have been obtained which exhibit transverse and other cuts like those which M. Desnoyers would ascribe to human handiwork. Other British caves might be cited (Kent's Hole, near Torquay, for example), where similar markings are associated with evidence of the presence of Man.

It is well known that the roots of plants, the vine for example, have an extraordinary power of producing reticulations, and sometimes straight furrows, on the exterior of bones at various depths, occasionally ten or more feet from the surface. There are also cracks caused by desiccation, when bones have been first moistened in the earth and then dried. But M. Desnoyers, after considering all these, and after exhausting every conjecture, has convinced himself that none of them afford so natural an explanation of a certain class of marks as the supposition that the bones were cut or scraped by human instruments. Deep and narrow transverse cuts circling round nearly half the circumference of a horn or bone, long straight parallel scratches and scrapings unaccompanied by trituration, smooth elliptical scars, showing where slices have been taken out, are common, says Desnoyers, to the bones of Saint-Prest, and to those found in Gaulish, Gallo-Roman, and German tumuli, where they accompany bone and stone instruments. The same antiquary ascribes certain indentations left on the skulls of *Elephas meridionalis*, which he showed me in Paris, to arrows which had pierced the cranium, or indented it as they glanced off from it, a speculation respecting which I dare not venture an opinion.

It may be asked, perhaps, why, in a deposit where there are so many supposed traces of the hand of Man, no one implement of flint or bone has yet been detected; and that, too, in a mass of gravel worked at Saint-Prest on so large a scale for railway ballast, during the last eleven years, as to have yielded to the paleontologist no less than 130 molars of the *Elephas meridionalis*, besides numerous remains of other extinct mammalia. In answer to such an objection, it may fairly be said, that, as yet, the attention of the workmen has never been specially directed to any objects, except the fossil teeth and bones, and most particularly to the larger and more entire ones. It has also been hinted, that tools of so remote a period may have been of so rude a description, that the evidence of design in