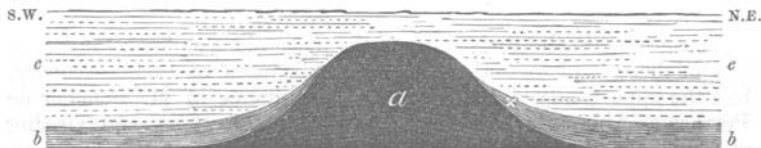


north bank for one hundred yards westward; it is seen again dipping under the stratified beds—the clay that overlies the stratified bed is of a reddish, or as Mr. Geikie describes it, “dark brown” colour mixed with sand and gravel, and is altogether freer than the under clay.

To account for these stratified beds, Mr. Geikie supposes that “one large lake,” or more probably a series of small lakes, may once have occupied the area between Caldwell and the place where the fossil remains of the great ox were obtained.” This surmise is most likely correct; yet it is doubtful if a glacier passed up the valley after the deposit of the stratified beds. They have no appearance of being disturbed by land-ice having passed over them. Into this I do not enter, it is enough to point out that these upper beds are distinct from the true “Till,” and may belong to deposits long posterior to it.



SECTION OF NORTH BANK, WHERE *Bos primigenius* WAS FOUND.

- a. Lower Boulder-clay.
- b. Stratified bed of fine mud, or clay, free from stones.
- c. Clay with sand and gravel.
- x Place where the fossil was found.<sup>1</sup>

ROBERT CRAIG.

LANGSIDE, BEITH, September 10, 1868.

## OBITUARY.

### M. BOUCHER DE PERTHES.

On the 2nd of August last, at the ripe age of 79 years, there passed away from among us Monsieur Jacques Boucher de Crèveceur de Perthes, Officer of the Legion of Honour, President of the Imperial Society of Emulation of Abbeville, a member of numerous learned societies, and a Foreign Correspondent of the Geological Society.

Throughout the whole of the civilized world there are few names better known than that of M. Boucher de Perthes, who in the present day must be regarded as the first person who directed public attention to those early works of man, the flint implements imbedded in the Post Pliocene gravels of our river valleys. Without detracting from the merits of Dr. Ceselli, of Rome, or of our own countryman, Mr. Frere, it must be confessed on all hands that to Boucher de Perthes and his labours is due the first impetus which was given to the study of the Antiquity of Man, which within the last few years has made such rapid progress, and which has enlisted the energies of so many votaries of science.

His *Antiquités Celtiques et Antédiluviennes*, printed in 1847, and published in 1849, will always be regarded as the starting point of

<sup>1</sup> The fossil was found on the top of the stratified bed, and could not be more than four feet from the surface.

this study; and though at the outset this work was treated in his own country with coldness and neglect, and though his views were regarded as unworthy of recognition by those better versed in other branches of geology, yet the strong convictions of Boucher de Perthes at length prevailed, and aided by the late Dr. Falconer, Mr. Prestwich, and other English geologists, his discovery of artificially formed implements, embedded in the same deposits with animals belonging to a fauna now for the most part extinct, was in 1859 amply corroborated, and is now universally accepted.

After many years of waiting, of argument, and of disappointment, M. Boucher de Perthes had, in the last decade of his life, the proud satisfaction of seeing his discoveries duly appreciated, and the study of the early history of man, to which he had so long devoted himself, taken up and successfully prosecuted by other labourers, who recognized him as their precursor, and, in a certain sense, as their master.

Those who, in the early days of the discussions as to the authenticity of these implements, and the circumstances of their discovery, had the opportunity of making the acquaintance of M. Boucher de Perthes at Abbeville, and of studying his collections, and visiting with him the deposits in the valley of the Somme, will always remember with gratitude the hearty kindness, the quick intelligence, the true liberality, and the courteous hospitality of the genial old man; and even those who had the misfortune to differ from him on the subject of the famous Moulin Quignon jaw, could never for a moment doubt his perfect sincerity and candour, even if they thought him somewhat too facile of belief.

The choicest part of his collection of primeval antiquities he presented, during his lifetime, to the National Museum at St. Germain-en-Laye, of which it will long remain a distinguished ornament; but numerous other museums and private collections all over the world are enriched by his munificence, for he gave with no niggardly hand.

A bachelor, with comfortable means, he had long given up his appointment as Directeur des Douanes, and had devoted himself to study and travel. His literary productions are voluminous. Besides his numerous works of greater or less importance relating to the Antiquity of Man, he published accounts of his Travels in Russia, Denmark, Spain, and other countries, written in a light and pleasant style; and he also entered the field of fiction, having written more than one novel; while occasionally his thoughts took a political turn, and he wrote of the prospective future of England, or deserted the Antiquity of Man to speculate on Woman and her Destiny.

His private correspondence with all parts of the world was immense, but so was his industry; and though of late years the gout was apt to interfere with his powers of writing, yet his pen was in his hand many hours each day. Those who have visited his home at Abbeville cannot fail to recal with affectionate remembrance the figure of the veteran seated at his table, with his papers around him, in the little study so profusely decorated with porcelain, where, alas, his place shall know him no more.