

been carefully examined, an extraordinary abundance of worm-burrows, to the exclusion almost of all other forms. I expect, however, to hear of *Oldhamia* and *Palæopyge* next, for Dr. Fritsch is not the man to leave a stone unturned. It is altogether a most welcome piece of information.

Now the summer months are fairly in, and the holidays beginning, may I put in a plea for the Cambrian rocks of the Longmynd? The more hammers the better; and if every piece of rock on the top of Round Hill, just beyond Callow Hill, were examined for the *Palæopyge*, it would be worth while; or better still, the neighbouring gullies on the line of strike. The old marks of hammers will easily guide explorers; and the establishment or refutation of the existence of this, the oldest of all crustaceans, would be alike desirable.

J. W. SALTER.

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#### HUMAN REMAINS IN THE DRIFT OF THE VALE OF BELVOIR.

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with my promise, I send you all the particulars I can glean relative to the human skull said to have been found in the valley of the Trent, near Newark, many feet down in the drift, and mingled with bones of extinct mammals. Of the vast importance of such a discovery I was fully aware, therefore immediately my friend W. Ingram, Esq., of Belvoir Castle, laid the circumstances before me, I, perhaps somewhat too hastily, sent off an account thereof for your magazine. Of that, however, your readers must judge. I knew that M. Boucher de Perthes has, in the editions of his descriptive works on the "Flint Implements," repeatedly said, in answer to the taunting question of his theoretical opponents, "How is it you never find the bones of man with these flints and bones?"—"Wait! They must be present somewhere. Wait and they will yet be found." During the last few years numerous results have issued. Mr. Horner's researches in the valley of the Nile sufficiently prove the great age of man, and the large extension required beyond the six thousand years of Archbishop Usher. If the story of the flint-implements be true, the history of man upon the earth must date back to a period immensely remote. Moreover, the length of time indicated by the hieroglyphics of Egypt and the calculations of the Chinese is by these discoveries verified. After years of pooh-poohing, *facts* have transpired in quick succession, establishing what before was for the most part theory founded upon inferences; and now, upon the same old inferences, theories are drawn out and built up in a new way to prove the lowness in the scale of intellect of the makers of the flint-implements; in other words, that that race of men was in the scale of being the step between the gorilla and the

"nigger." And what for? Simply to prove the development theory of the "Vestiges," Lamarck, and so on back to the time of Democritus; for these development theories are not new to the world: they are the old hypothesis dressed up in a new fashion. However, as it is not my purpose at present to dispute the ancestry some modern authors have chosen for themselves, I pass on, especially as I have a strong personal objection to any such lineage for myself.

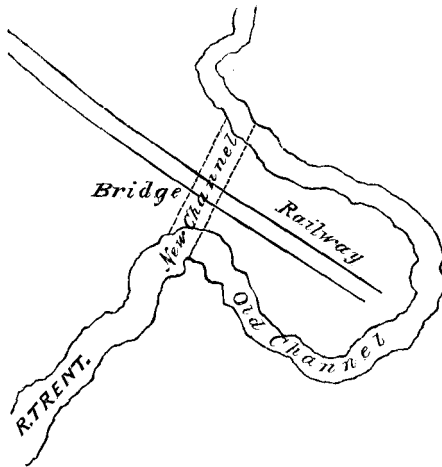
On Monday the 17th inst. I set out in company with Mr. James Plant, of Leicester, for Belvoir Castle. We walked across the country from Melton to Croxton, where a friend met us for the purpose of driving us to some of the localities in the neighbourhood best adapted for geological observation, the weather being all a geologist could desire. We were tolerably astounded at the immense mass of typical Lias fossils which we saw near the village of Redmile; *Ammonites*, *Terebratula*, *Rhynchonella*, *Plagiostoma*, *Pecten*, *Modiola*, *Belemnites*, *Gryphea*, *Avicula*, and fossil wood and coprolites being met with in abundance. Hugh Miller has told us how he was enchanted with and enchained in the Wren's-nest at Dudley by a slab of Silurian limestone crowded with the remains of palæozoic life. So similar sensations crept over myself in this liassic burial ground. Thence we passed to another interesting locality at Woolsthorpe brickyard, where some beautiful specimens of *Ammonites*, *Pentacrinites*, and a variety of other fossils may be found in the Lias clay. These are exceedingly delicate and small, but not friable. We visited other places more or less interesting not necessary to describe here, and the next morning proceeded to Newark, to inspect, if possible, the bones and skull referred to in my last communication; but in this we failed, as their owner, Dr. Beevor, had sent them to be made into a hat and cloak stand for his hall, placing the skull on the top. A singular appropriation, which can only be accounted for by the fact that the doctor takes no interest in geological matters, and was not aware of the scientific value of the bones.

He has, however, promised to forward them to Mr. Ingram of Belvoir, who will forward them to you for inspection.

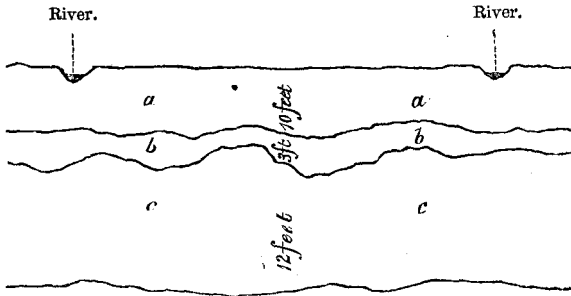
The particulars I give below are well substantiated, and not the slightest doubt can by any means be thrown on them, as the facts are all well attested. The following is a rough sketch of the district, showing the bends of the river. The Great Northern Railway diverted the course of the river to the channel shown by the dotted lines, and in digging for the foundation of the bridge over the new channel the workmen came upon the remains in question.

The whole of the operations were on Mr. Chowler's farm, at Muskham, near Newark, and I ought, in justice, to remark that Mr. Chowler was exceedingly kind and polite in affording us all the information we required.

The section shows the depth at which these bones were come upon, to be much greater than was stated in your June number, being twenty-five feet instead of twelve feet.



Plan of the district at Muskham, near Newark.



Section across the locality where the bones and human skull were found.  
 a, loam; b, clay; c, pulpy silt, very soft, and gravels.

The pit sunk was about fifteen feet square, and at the bottom a ten feet rod could be driven in with the hand alone, so soft was the material. The divisions between the loam, clay, and silt had never been disturbed from its first deposition. This was particularly noted. Within a few yards of the spot this soft stuff gave place to fine gravel and sand, the clay and loam continuous as before. In some portions of this valley the gravel and sand comes up to within a few inches of the surface, and the clay is wanting; but this is not the case in this immediate locality. This soft, pulpy matter indicates a percolating connection between the "reaches" and the river. Suffice it then to say that at this depth of twenty-five feet, the antlers of a reindeer were found four feet long, sundry other large bones, supposed to be those of *Bos Elephas*, *Equus*, &c., and numerous copro-

lites (?), or more probably fossil fruit; also a very rude earthenware vessel, in size about a pint and half, and a human skull, which Dr. Beevor pronounces to be that of a female. What is very remarkable, he says the organs of caution and firmness were very largely developed, and the forehead was lofty, evidently betokening a high degree of intellectual power. Now this is the most important thing in the whole matter, because it clashes so discordantly with the theory that man of the flint-implement period of the "drift" was so low in the scale as necessarily to come in between the gorilla and the negro. Alas! for the theory, if this, the only human bone yet found, so flatly contradicts it.\* We can still exclaim with Burns, that

"A man's a man for a' that."

And furthermore, let the grand saying of Terence ring in our ears:

"Homo sum, nihil humanum a me alienum puto!"

And it will come out, I believe, clearer and clearer that through no "natural selection" in the "struggle for existence," can man by any means be a splendid development of some anterior existence referable back to the monad, thence to the combination of certain elements, and so on backwards *ad infinitum*.

FRANCIS DRAKE.

## FOSSIL DEER'S HORN AT CLACTON, SHOWING MARKS OF HUMAN OPERATIONS.

BY REV. O. FISHER, F.G.S., OF ELMSTEAD, COLCHESTER.

DR. BREE, the well-known naturalist and author of "Species not Transmutable," has kindly entrusted to my care a very interesting specimen, bearing with much force upon the question of the antiquity of the human race. It is the base of an antler of the red-deer, showing unmistakable evidences of human operations upon it. The specimen was dredged up about two months ago off Clacton, in Essex, in the course of dredging for cement-stones. Dr. Bree has a portion of the tusk of a mastodon (?) and some fish-bones and teeth, apparently derived from the red crag, from the same source. The spot is two miles from the shore, and is called "The Wallet."

The horn in question was not shed, but has a portion of the bone of the skull adhering to it. It has been *chopped* away from the skull, showing a clear mark or cut on each side. But this is the least remarkable feature. The most interesting point is that the three branches of the horn have been *sawn* off with perfectly clean cuts perpendicularly to their axes, the polished surfaces of the sections being