

implements were manufactured and used. The very association of particular *kinds* of animals with the worked flints, and the manner of their association in deposits which are really undisturbed and have not been subjected to torrential action, should be the stepping-stones to the right path of inductive inference, and should be most carefully noted in all discoveries of this class of objects..

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### HUMAN REMAINS FOUND WITH THE BONES OF EXTINCT ANIMALS IN THE VALE OF BELVOIR.

DEAR SIR,—Having occasion to visit the vale of Belvoir, a few days since I met with a few facts which will, I think, be interesting to your readers, and I trust they will induce some of them to make an excursion to that lovely vale the heights of which are crowned with the magnificent castle of the Duke of Rutland.

Fossils in abundance may be obtained from the marlstone, lias, clays and gravels of the drift, &c. In the lias I have every reason to believe there is an abundance of oörolites, judging from what I saw at the residence of William Ingram, Esq., near the castle, an ardent geologist, who possesses an exceedingly good collection from the neighbourhood. In it he has a very interesting young Plesiosaurus. The specimen is not quite perfect, the neck being wanting. It seems evident that the farmers in this district are not aware of the fertilizing agent that exists immediately under the soil.

But the fact which I principally wish you to record is rather important just now, as it bears upon the *vexata quæstio* of the day—the age of the human family. Two hours ride from the castle will bring you to the valley of the Trent, near Newark. In this valley as most of your readers are aware, the Drift is largely developed, and abundance of fossils characteristic of that period may be found, such as mammalian bones of extinct species, &c.; and now I think it is probable the acmé of Mons. Perthes' dreams have been realized, for a part of the human frame has been found commingled with extinct animals. The arrow-head found entangled in the horns of the stag found by Mr. Pengelly at Brixham was vast in importance; it told us by inference that man must have existed along with the extinct animals of, mayhaps, the closing æons of the tertiary era. Some of us strove to look back through the vista of time, but the darkness seemed only intensified by that sudden spark cast athwart the gloom; but the flame of knowledge kindles more and more as the electric light of intelligence penetrates. In the second part of Goëthes Faust there occurs that wonderful scene, where, in the classical Walpurgis night, on the Pharsalian plains, the mocking

Mephistopheles sits down between the solemn antique sphinxes and boldly questions them, and reads their riddles, even so must we boldly question the bones, &c., that constantly turn up, and as boldly read their riddles; and so vague images and gorgeous dreams, that float about like the tremulous sunbeam on the wave, dazzling yet undefined, shall give place to "things of beauty," and so become "a joy for ever." But I have almost lost sight of what I intended to relate. In sinking a pit for gravel, through mould, clay and sand, a human skull was found by Mr. Chowler, of corn-law protection notoriety, twelve feet below the surface, with bones of *Bos*, *Elephas*, *Equus*, &c. The strata evidently never had been disturbed, but were just as originally deposited.

Those who fond of archæology will likewise find in their ramble through the Vale ample gratification: near Bennington is a British encampment, with a circular moat or vallum round, and partly filled with water. I dug out some British pottery, and found some stone foundations formed with Drift from the Oolite, and crammed with fossils: near is also a mound, which I hope to see opened at a future trip. Opposite on the "back bone" of Lincolnshire are extensive remains of another British camp.

There is no doubt but that the valley of the Trent is exceedingly rich in Drift fossils; and I firmly believe the delta of the Soar, near Kegworth, where that river made its embouchure into the Trent, would well repay a little work. Cannot some of your readers buckle on the harness and set to work?—Yours, &c., FRANCIS DRAKE, Leicester.

[This communication from our correspondent Mr. Drake, reached us barely in time for press. We hope to give minute details of this important discovery of human-remains in our next number.—  
ED. GEOL.]

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE DARWINIAN THEORY.

SIR,—I read with some regret the article in your number for April, on the "Darwinian Theory:" not that I would be understood to be in any way opposed to the ventilation and free discussion of any subject fairly within the range of scientific research; on the contrary, I believe there is no surer method of testing the numerous theories, which now-a-days so often take the place of facts, than to submit them to the free and open discussion of those who are conversant with the facts which they profess to generalize and explain. Still, when all this allowance has been made, I confess that I *do* feel some little regret at seeing the modernized Lamarckian Theory of Darwin advocated in the pages of your valuable magazine; for I cannot forget that this "development" theory would not only not furnish us with an adequate solution of the facts it professes to generalize, since by the direct admission of its advocates, an admission, by the way, which forms one of their