

down the branches and leaves of trees.

A closely related form, the *Mastodon* should be named. Teeth of this creature have been found weighing seventeen pounds apiece. Its tusks were from twelve to fourteen feet long. Within the ribs of a specimen found in New Jersey, were seven bushels of cedar twigs. The item furnishes some clue to the capacity to the creature's appetite.

The *Glyptodon* was queer. We can best understand its appearance from an examination of its skeleton (Fig. 25). This creature was a manimal; yet it was clad in a huge shell like that of a modern turtle. The shell

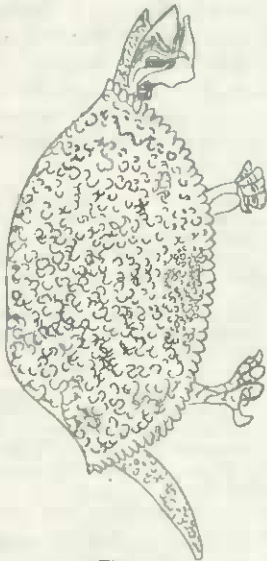


Fig. 25.

was five feet long; and the entire length of the animal from tip of nose to tip of tail was not less than nine feet. In bulk, we may properly compare it with an ox.

The remains of the *Mammoth* or fossil elephant are common in the rocks of the recent period. The best



Fig. 26.

specimens are found in Siberia. At the beginning of the present century, an almost perfect carcass was found

at the mouth of the Lena River, preserved in the ice. The skeleton is now in St. Petersburg, with portions of the skin still attached to the feet and the head. It is known that the creature was covered with a thick coat of long, shaggy hair. Single teeth have been found weighing over fourteen pounds; and tusks go over two hundred pounds apiece. Large numbers of tusks are collected and sold as ivory. In one year (1844) sixteen hundred pounds were received in the Russian markets.

That we may not suppose all the monstrous forms to have been confined to quadrupeds, let us contemplate this bird (Fig. 27)—the *Dodo*: Its wings were very small—and of no more use for flying than those of an

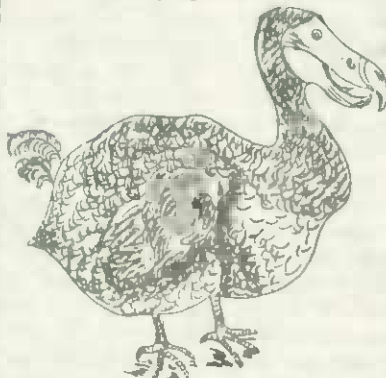


Fig. 27.

ostrich or a young chicken. This creature is now extinct, though it has existed on earth since the time of man, for sketches of the feathered beauty are found on the log books of early mariners.

Such are a few of the revelations of the rocks. Do they indicate any antagonism with sacred records? But it may be said, we have not spoken of man; when did he come—whence did he come—how did he come? He came when the earth was prepared to receive him; he came from the abode of his Divine Parent; he came by the creative act of that same Divine Parent. He has left the records of his life in the rocks also. But it is not necessary to find his bones or the imprint of his foot, before we know of his existence. He leaves behind him traces of his handiwork, his clothing, his weapons, his ornaments and his buildings. He learned to kindle fires, and the ashes are found about his doors. The earliest traces of human existence are those of undoubted men. They were not animals. Geology furnishes no intimation of the existence of connecting links between animals and men. The earliest human skeleton found is declared by Dana to be of a fine Caucasian type. Man is the son of God; the word of Omniscience has so declared; and

geological evidence does not contradict the statement. There will be found harmony between science and religion as soon as man has learned to know the true from the false, and to rely upon his Heavenly Teacher for the aid of inspiration in his researches.

The Mosaic account of creation is our most ancient record; it was not written as a geological text book; it is but an outline, a sketch, a beautiful song, a soul-stirring hymn; a psalm of praise, if you please, with the creation as its theme. The two great records of creation cannot be at variance; they were written by the direction of the same great Author, and He is truth itself.

Well may we stand in reverent humility while contemplating the wonders of our surroundings; and well may each of us we join with the poet in exclaiming:

"Oh! my heart is awed within me, when I think

Of the great miracle which still goes on
In silence round me—the perpetual work
Of Thy creation, finished, yet renewed forever."

A PROPER VINDICATION.

As will be observed by the minutes of the proceedings of the City Council, Tuesday, February 4, Mayor Armstrong and Marshal Solomon were exonerated by that honorable body from any wrongdoing in connection with the expenditure of public funds.

These officials were, as is publicly known, indicted by the lately defunct political grand jury for conspiracy to rob the treasury by misappropriation of public funds, because the Marshal had paid out certain moneys for detective service in the discovery of persons guilty of breaking the ordinance for the prevention of liquor-selling on Sunday, and that for the punishment of keepers of houses of ill-repute and the inmates thereof. In consequence of this indictment the Council, at the request of the Mayor and Marshal, investigated the matter. The conclusion was in consonance with the facts. The vote on the motion which freed them from any blame in the premises was unanimous, there being no dissentient. The Council did the proper thing. Had they done less they would have been censurable.

We congratulate the two gentlemen thus vindicated. So will every fair-minded citizen in the community, without regard to class or political creed.