

ical generation. In these pestilential vapors infidelity might feast and immorality could revel as congenial caurian life in a death-swamp. But as electric flashes purify the atmosphere, and sun-beams dispel noxious vapors, so have startling discoveries and the bursting forth of a flood of pure light made wide rifts in the clouds of error, and shattered many a fancy dream of truth-smothering and false science.

The cherished theory of delving antiquarians is that man has existed upon the continent of America for hundreds of thousands of years—that he has gradually advanced through a series of progressive stages, from a primitive crudity lower than that of the most abased brute—that his ingenuity and natural capacity for invention and improvement developed with his growing perceptions of necessity and comfort. This mist of murky vapors still bewilders many honest minds, and retards the progress and useful efforts of archaeological researches.

It is one of the positive declarations of radical evolutionists that animals peculiar to the primal status of life moved about upon the wild and desolate regions of America a million years before man made his appearance. These animals were of the huge and uncouth types, known as the mastodon, megatherium, the mylodon, and others—all supposed to be extinct. But in 1857 a fragment of a human skull was found associated with the bones of the mastodon in the auriferous gravel of Table Mountain, California, at a depth of one hundred and eighty feet. Dr. C. F. Winslow sent it to the Natural Historical Society of Boston; and a fragment was also forwarded to the Philological Academy of Natural Science.

In 1866 another almost complete skull together with some other fragments of human remains was found, as announced by Professor J. D. Whitney, Director of the Government Survey of California. This relic is known as the "Calaveras skull;" and beside it were found the remains of mammals, fossilized wood, and a land snail shell. (See Whitney, Auri. Gravels of Ser. Nav.)

Gravels of a similar kind, and supposed date of deposit, have yielded the bones of extinct animals. The Marquis de Nadaillac says: "There are deposits in California and Oregon, where the remains of elephants and mastodons might be had by the wagon load. Besides, gigantic pachydermata, we meet with extinct oxen (elotherim), hiparim, and

several kinds of horses. It contains elms, figs, alders and other descriptions of trees; land-points, stone hatchets, mortars—doubtless used for grinding grain and other kernels, and bearing witness to the presence of man. These have been found buried beneath beds of lava." (Pre-historic America, page 42.)

Whitney, in reporting his discoveries to M. Desar, says: "My chief interest now centers in the human remains, and in the works from the hand of man that have been found in the tertiary strata of California, the existence of which I have been able to verify during the last few months. Evidence has now accumulated to such an extent that I feel no hesitation in saying we have unequivocal proofs of the existence of man on the Pacific Coast prior to the period of the mastodon and the elephant. You may rely upon my publishing this fact, with all its details, so soon as the necessary maps are engraved and I have made a complete geological survey of the regions." (*Revue d'Anthrop.*, 1872, page 760.)

It is further claimed that, as land-heads and arrow points, hatchets, etc., have been discovered near and mingled with the remains of these animals, they were attacked and killed with them; so that not only did man appear contemporaneously with them, but that with these feeble weapons he succeeded in vanquishing his gigantic foes. While trenches were being dug for gas-pipes at a large city in one of the Southern States, about ten years ago, the work-men came to a buried forest, at a depth of sixteen feet. Amongst the trunks of trees and fragments of burned wood lay a human skeleton. The discovery drew the attention of curious scientists, who commenced to speculate as to the length of time the trees had been buried. Doctor Bennet Dawley gave it as his opinion that the human remains were fifty-seven thousand years old! He must, however, afterwards have discovered an error somewhere; for by a later calculation he reduces the antiquity fourteen thousand and four hundred years. (See Short's American Indians, page 123.)

In 1848, Count de Pourtales found some human jaws, with the teeth still therein, and with them a human foot in a conglomerate of coral and broken shells. These materials were embedded in the shore rocks overhanging Lake Monroe, Florida. Professor Agassiz published the discovery to the scientific world, with

comments thereon, in his "Types of Man," page 352. The learned professor allows the coral bank an age 13,300 years; and for the bones embedded in its bosom 10,000 years. The scientific world, including Syell and Wilson, accepted the data, and discussed them against dissentients for several years. Ultimately the Count himself discovered that he had either been misunderstood, or else that he had made a mistake. However, he put an end to the controversy by declaring that the bones were found, not in a coral bed of conglomerate, but in a fresh water deposit, distinctly characterized by mollusks, such as are found everywhere in the adjoining lake. (*American Naturalist*, vol. 2, page 423.)

Dr. Foster, in speaking of the Count's back-down, suggested that "the pre-historic forests so-called, successively laid low, with thousands of years between each bed, were trees and other debris brought down by the river in its frequent inundations, and deposited with the washings from the bottom and banks." Thus, one by one, the foundation dogmas of the popular fabric of delusive theories are being frittered away by the silent attrition of these sepulchral evidences of the hoary past. The learned ones refute one another. Says Nadaillac in the preface to his work: "The first revelation in regard to the existence of man with extinct animals was received not only with surprise but with natural incredulity. Soon, however, proofs of such weight multiplied that doubt became no longer reasonable, and we are now able to assert with confidence that at a period from which we are separated by many centuries man inhabited the earth, already old at the time of his appearance." The Marquis might have stopped with this, but he must go on and show his infidelity thus: "The length of this period can be measured by no chronology; no calculation can compute it; history and tradition are silent with regard to it."

The one grand aim and effort of atheistical science is to evade moral responsibility. Notwithstanding this bold denial, there are chronologies, histories, and traditions by which the period of man's first appearance in mortality upon the earth can be computed and ascertained with reasonable exactitude. When man was first created he was a perfect being, organically, and was associated with the highest conditions conceivable of civilization and refinement. He stood in the