



light or care was exercised by hon. members opposite when in office, to stop such sides. Indeed, the member for Chateauguy was understood to say that a great deal more had been done by the hon. member for West York (Hon. Mr. Howland) than in office. When by himself, to improve the financial condition of the Province.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—You say it was the same Government, spite of the change of personnel. Hon. Mr. GALT—Does my hon. friend say it was the same Government? It was the same Government. Hon. Mr. HOLTON—Ask the hon. member for Montreal West. (Laughter.)

Hon. Mr. GALT thought that the last Government gave the latter hon. gentleman very good reason for doubting it was the same as the preceding Government. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) The member for Chateauguy said that while it might be excusable to base the estimates for the first six months on the scale of previous expenditure, those for the following twelve months should have been accompanied by a plan of retrenchment. But I was of any such plan, why did he not, while in office, lay it down himself? He (Mr. Galt) had found, on his accession to office, no plan of retrenchment, or else he should have been more happy, as far as his power, to carry it out. That hon. gentleman left behind him no plan, and it was not believed he had any such plan devised. The hon. member for Chateauguy had talked of putting a stamp duty on transactions in real estate. He had also talked of that if that hon. gentleman had imposed stamp duties generally, while in the Government that he would have found the measure both vexatious and unpopular. The truth was that real estate was already subjected to very heavy burdens connected with the general taxation of the country, which fact was kept in view in imposing stamp duties. The motion in amendment before the House applied to the action which the Government had taken with respect to reducing the canal tolls. Until 1860 the scale of tolls on the canals was, from time to time, varied by Orders in Council, and different scales were adopted at different times, having more or less relation to the rate of tolls levied on the Erie Canal, and in order that the House might thoroughly understand the very small point attempted to be made by the hon. member for Hochelaga in regard to this matter, he (Mr. Galt) would state precisely what the scale was taken before 1860—

In the first place, in 1851, and Order in Council was passed, on the recommendation of Mr. Hincks, to the effect that a reduction should be made of one-fourth, and one-third on certain articles passing through the whole system of our canals. In 1853 another Order in Council was passed, in the same recommendation, in which it was stated that the effect of the previous partial remission of tolls on certain articles passing through the canals had been such that a second recommendation was deemed judicious. The latter set forth the belief that the object contemplated by the former regulations would be obtained to a greater extent by the exemption of certain staple articles of trade from the payment of toll on passing through the other canals on having paid in going through any particular one of them. The author of the recommendation, therefore, proposed that in lieu of a reduction of 25 or 33 per cent, as allowed in 1851, that a number of staple articles of commerce having paid toll through the St. Lawrence, should pass free through the Welland and Erie canals.

The House would observe, from the Order in Council of 1853, that at that time the policy of the Government was to give the benefit of exemption on iron and salt going through the canals upwards, and on wheat, flour and grain, passing down in the same way as at present, a condition of things which the present amendment would effect. It was very strange that the honorable member for Hochelaga should only now wake up, in 1864, to the fact that the policy pursued since 1851, and still more strongly adopted in 1853, was a mistaken policy. How was it that the member for Chateauguy had only discovered now, in 1864, that those exemptions were contrary to the public interest? How was it that the honorable member for South Uxbridge had also only discovered now that the regulations adopted this year were in conflict with all manner of evil to the country? If those gentlemen were ignorant of the fact, was it creditable that they should go on for years legislating, absolutely ignorant of the state in which those tolls remained for years previous to 1864? If this ignorant it was strange those honorable members should raise here and complain of the reduction of those tolls being calculated to decrease the revenue to an extent necessary to demand taxation in a different direction. It was perfectly absurd on their part to do so. (Cheers.) He (Mr. Galt) was certain the House knew how very little the revenue was affected by the toll paid by iron and salt.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON—There was very little paid on them. Hon. Mr. GALT did not, therefore, understand why the hon. gentleman should be alarmed at the remission of toll on those articles. In regard to wheat and flour, the course taken by the hon. member for West York (Mr. Howland) in reimposing canal tolls, caused great complaint throughout the country. He had made, practically, a very large increase in the toll on produce coming down from Lake Erie to Montreal, and to that extent prejudicially affected our trade coming through the St. Lawrence, as hon. gentlemen opposite must admit. Great complaints had been urged at the time that the effect of this measure would be to direct the Western trade to Oswego and West Point instead of allowing it to take its natural course by the St. Lawrence. In this relation it was important to notice the movement of trade last year. By the Welland Canal, the amount of vegetable food, coming down from Lake Erie and surrounding country, for the first six months of this year was less than the amount of the first six months of the previous year by 100,000 tons. In the case of the St. Lawrence Canal, the thing was more marked. Up to the 1st of September, 1863, the entries of produce passed through this canal, as compared with the previous year, was 71,000 tons less, and in the last part of 1863 was 78,000 tons less than in the corresponding period of the preceding year, this latter quantity amounting to one-half the trade in vegetable food passing through our canal. This showed the result of the re-imposition of the canal tolls. He would ask the hon. gentleman opposite how they could justify the putting on of largely increased tolls on the lumber trade, one of the most important interests of the country? He would show that they had enormously increased the burdens on this trade, while professing to reduce the burdens on the flour trade. This lumber trade was more particularly connected with the Ottawa and Rideau Canals. In the case of sawn lumber, the Government of hon. gentlemen opposite had increased the toll from 7 to 20 cents per 1,000 feet board measure, and on sawn in raft the increase was 14 cents, the change in sawn logs being from 3 to 8 cents; and yet they did not impose those rates in the interest of the producers of this country. The hon. gentleman opposite must know very well that the doubling of the rate on lumber would kill this important interest. The policy of the Government, as attacked by the hon. member for Hochelaga, was that of restoring the exemptions. He (Mr. Galt) thought it was manifest that some readjustment must take place, and the Government intended to consider the matter before Parliament rose. With regard to the question of what would be lost on articles coming down the canals, particularly flour and grain, it was

stated in the statistics of Montreal for the past year, that of grain was less than 37,000 bushels came down from September to the close of the year.

Mr. A. MACKENZIE—There was none to send. Hon. Mr. GALT—If so, there could be no loss from remitting the tolls on this commodity. Hon. Mr. HOLTON—Nothing to gain. Hon. Mr. GALT—Well, if so, what did the regulations apply to? It was to wheat and grain. He, Mr. Galt, had stated that in respect to those regulations vary from the Order in Council passed by Mr. Hincks, with the support of many of the gentlemen opposite in 1853, and which remained in effect till the change, took place a few years ago. And did it lie in the mouths of hon. gentlemen who approved of the system established in 1853, with their approval, as judged by their silence, to come here and say that the Government was unworthy of confidence, because it went back to the old policy, and gave the trade those exemptions which it enjoyed several years under the Hincks Administration and others which succeeded it. This was the only point members opposite could attack the Government upon—the more salient point of their policy; and he wished them joy of what the country would think of their course. It was notorious that the policy of honorable gentlemen opposite, on this question, was the cause of general complaint in the country, and had a most depressing effect on the most important branches of business in the Province, and had done a great deal of harm in regard to the relations of this country towards the United States. Our canal tolls on the Welland and St. Lawrence Canals were paid in gold, while those of the Erie canal were paid in American currency. Consequently, he (Mr. Galt) received, the day before yesterday, a communication from the Board of Trade, setting forth the fact that, though the Canadian tolls were now nominally less, they were really greater relatively to the American tolls than before, in consequence of the latter being paid in depreciated currency; and submitting to the consideration of the Government the propriety of reducing the tolls on the Welland and Erie canals, premising as their opinion that a small reduction of the Welland tolls would largely augment the volume of our trade through this canal. This point deserved the attention of the Government and would receive it. This communication went to prove that the policy which the Government announced was really the best to take for the purpose of increasing our carrying trade—namely, restoring the exemptions under which the trade was carried on for a number of years. He would reserve the points raised by this Board of Trade till the question of the re-adjustment of the canal tolls could be taken up. He had every confidence the present Government had taken the wisest course in regard to this matter, and that the House would sustain therein in their endeavors to promote the best interests of their country. (Loud cheers.)

There was a considerable pause before any honorable gentleman arose to speak. There were cries of "withdraw," and "lost on a division," from the Ministerial supporters, when finally Mr. A. MACKENZIE arose and proceeded to discuss the question from an Opposition point of view. He argued that the policy of removing the canal tolls was a boon to the foreign trader, but was injurious to the Western farmer; and that freights were not in any way likely to be beneficially affected by such a policy. The hon. gentleman cited a variety of statistics in support of his view of the case; and he concluded his remarks on the subject by saying that he was prepared to offer every resistance in his power to a course which could only build up a few Montreal forwarders, while doing serious injury to the great producing country of the West, a portion of which he represented. There was another point to which, in justice to the House, he would refer, and that was the fact that the President of the Council, (Mr. Buchanan), he (Mr. Mackenzie) would allude before he sat down. He (Mr. Mackenzie) understood from a Minister of the Crown that that gentleman (Mr. Buchanan) had resolved not to accept any salary for his services as a Minister; and he mentioned this fact as a matter of justice to the President of the Council, inasmuch as he believed it was the first time it was publicly mentioned by hon. gentlemen on the other side of the House having thought it fit to make it known. Hear, hear.

After another pause, with cries of "Question," "Carried," "Lost," &c.— Mr. RYMAL said he was sorry to see that the hon. President of the Council (Mr. Buchanan) was condemned to perpetual silence by his colleagues, so that neither sneers nor compliments could induce him to speak. He (Mr. Rymal) would like to hear an exposition of the canal policy of the Government from the hon. President of the Council, otherwise he would feel it his duty to vote against the Government. The hon. gentleman was very clear and lucid and in his explanation of the fact, why should he not favor the House with his views now? (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Rymal) protested on behalf of the hon. President of the Council against the treatment that hon. gentleman received at the hands of his colleagues. (Laughter.) He looked upon this as another most glaring and unjustifiable piece of Lower Canada domination, thus to condemn to silence a hon. gentleman from Upper Canada who was so admirably qualified for the post of Finance Minister. (Cheers and laughter.)

There was another pause of three or four minutes before any hon. gentleman arose to speak.

Paris Correspondence of the "Montreal Herald."

Paris, April 26, 1864.

The French who always begin by quizzing English customs, and end by adopting them, and who have successively laughed at, and adopted tea, sandwiches, beer, horse-racing, dog-shows, rough cloth, essay coats, crinolines, pork-bait hats, black jet necklaces, and nets for feminine "back hair," are just now getting up a general desire for those entire houses which, up to a recent period, they have stigmatized as the cause and effect of British pride and exclusiveness. Small single houses, with rooms that in England, would be regarded as "light closets," let for prices varying from a thousand to fifteen hundred francs a year; while anything like a good-sized, comfortable house, let at from two to ten thousand! All the villages about Paris, on all the railway lines, are increasing with mushroom speed; slightly built tenements, with a bit of garden, being set up with marvellous rapidity, and letting at fabulous prices. Old estates are being cut up into building lots, new roads being laid out through them, wagon-loads of building-materials are traversing the land in every direction, and you might fancy yourself rather in some new settlement of the New World of America, and Australia than in the immediate vicinity of the city which holds itself to be "the Metropolis of Europe."

The whole country is thus becoming dotted over with habitations, a few of which, built by rich people for their own use, are large, well built and agreeable, but of which by far the greater number have been run up, by speculators, in the slightest manner, and at a distance in every element of comfort, and are often as ugly as possible, but which will, nevertheless, be let at

prices which will enable the speculator to clear of the amount of his investment in a very short time. The genius of the French people for packing themselves into the smallest possible space, is sufficiently conspicuous in Paris, shows itself still more conspicuously in the country; where they seldom boast of more than one tolerable room, the rest being ingeniously cut up into scraps of rooms just long enough and broad enough to put a bed and a small table into them; the general dress of a French summer resorting to the absolute necessities of in-door life in the country to the business of eating and drinking. There are no drains to these houses; no cupboards, nothing like a storeroom, or even a back-kitchen. Provisions are brought in daily, by the handmaid, as needed; and the talent of the people for method and order enables them to stow all unsightly objects out of the range of vision, and get through their six months of sojourn very much to their own satisfaction.

The new portions of the villages now most in vogue, from their proximity to the capital, such as Asnières, Argenteuil, Suresnes, &c., are composed of these ridiculously small houses, each in a speck of garden, but all fitting one into the other so closely that they look as though a few pushes would suffice to cram the whole into one solid block; and as each of the dwellings has its own dog, and its own tiny poultry-coop, the combined racket of barking and crowing that fills these favourite summer resorts, is absolutely deafening. The first thing to which, when he has taken a stroll in the country, the Parisian dandy is attracted is the finding of a dog that shall bark loudly, and of a cock that can crow louder, than those of his neighbourhood; if his wife, as is so often the case, be a patroness of parrots, she will choose her gaudy pet for the shrillness of his voice. There is also sure to be in every cluster of houses, one or more youths addicted to the trumpet and fond of adding to the usual extra hub-bub of Sunday evenings, by leasing out of an upper window and blowing this agreeable instrument, and the peculiar, monotonous flourish which summons the French soldier to his nightly slumbers.

When this trumpeting comes to an end, from the exhaustion of the trumpet, or the weariness of the public, subsiding only when the rural colony betakes itself to its pillows. From which period until about midnight there is a subsidence of noise; but this respite of sensitive ears is soon brought to an end by the passage of market carts, wagons laden with stone, bricks and other building materials, and droves of cattle, sheep, or hogs, as they are transported across the country in the dead of night the vehicles, heavy, lumbering, rattling, creaking, noisy machines of a century ago, shaking the ground as they go, their harness covered with jangling bells, their drivers cracking their great whips, and swearing continuously at the top of their lungs, dogs barking as they drive their herds or cattle, and all the dogs in the vicinity waking up, and barking back at the intruders, and the cocks, unwilling to be beaten on their own ground, screeching in unison to the utmost possibilities of their gullets. The French being accustomed to noise from their cradles, dislike quiet. They say still less is dreaded than sleep, and would rather be wakened by the incessant racket of the night, than, in their opinion, a natural and agreeable sequence to the noise of the day; and they sleep through it all as "sound as many tops."

As Paris is becoming more and more the fashionable playground of the rest of the world, and as this playground is becoming more and more a playground of the world, the Government is endeavoring to change its playground, or to introduce a regime of racket into its nurseries and thoroughfares as an indispensable preliminary to the possibility of sojourning in Paris and its vicinity. I have known foreign visitors, accustomed to the quietude of the English and other cities, compelled to cut short their stay in Paris from incapacity to endure the combined noises of the people occupying the apartments above and below them, and of the incessant rumbling and rattling of the heavy stone-wagons, which are only allowed to traverse the city between midnight and five in the morning.

Nothing in its way, can be more perfect than the skill and taste with which the French lay out the new lands to which it is wished to attract the rusticated public of the capital. Take for instance, among twenty similar attempts, the conversion of the old Park of Vesinet into a summer colony, now going on under the auspices of the Government. The said Park is really an old forest that has belonged, since the Revolution to the state, but has been allowed to lie idle and neglected up to this time. The present Government, wanting money, and also bent on enlarging the ideas of the people in the matter of localities, has had this beautiful forest which lies at the foot of the hill on which stands St. Germain-en-Laye, with its unrivalled terrace overlooking the basin in which Paris stands, carefully laid out with winding roads, broad avenues, squares, and round points, all ornamental, and furnished with turf, clumps of ornamental shrubs, beds of flowers, statues, &c. Water-works established in the edge of the park, bring the water of the Seine down to the level of the basin, and the water is then sent to the fountains, showing deliciously amid the light green of the spring leaves, and the darker hues of pine and laurel. The entire region, so neatly and tastefully laid out to tempt purchasers from Paris, is divided into building-lots, the boundaries of which are indicated by the stakes driven into the ground. These lots are left their original wildness; so that purchasers may clear away the trees or leave them standing, at pleasure; and otherwise turn to account, according to the dictates of their fancy, the various inequalities of the ground. Those who wish to have a large garden can purchase as many contiguous lots as they please, throwing them into one. Those who wish for a smaller garden can build their houses on a single lot; surrounding their purchase with a wall or a paling, as they please; excepting only a few of the more beautiful sites, which, offering naturally the aspect of a charming park, can only be built upon in consonance with a plan, carefully devised, by means of which their park-like beauty will be preserved, and the lovely views kept open and unimpeded by brick and mortar impedimenta. The lots which command the finest views, or whose gardens come down to the edge of the "river," or the banks of the "lakes," fetch the highest prices; the most aristocratic of these chosen sites being those which stand on the large island aforesaid, filled exclusively with very elegant and costly villas, whose gardens run down to the edge of the water. It is impossible to imagine anything prettier in its way than this park of Vesinet; with its old forest, its young plantations of ornamental shrubbery, its beds of flowers, its smooth gravel

paths, winding through expanses of soft turf, and clumps of pines; its shining river, with its pretty rustic bridges, its patches of broom and heather, its gay houses, public gardens, and exquisite views. It looks like a scene from some old fair, painted by Watteau. But even there, with its balmy air, its flowers, streams and greenery, the demon of noise holds sway as elsewhere. Thirty-seven trams rush through it daily, shrieking and blowing as they go; and along the whole four great Departmental roads by which it is traversed pass incessant streams of vehicles, of every kind, of passengers, and countless droves of bees and mutton. Night and day the air is filled with an all-pervading din of carts, wagons, bells and drivers' whips; dogs and cocks, filling up every gap in the long stream of creaking and rumbling. Whenever a little lull occurs, you hear cuckoos, finches and blackbirds, singing in every direction as gaily as though they had their hearts to themselves; and at night when a break occurs in the stream of carts and the cocks happen to take a nap you hear the nightingales all through the forest.

Speaking of birds reminds me of the visit of a swallow, which has been exciting public curiosity, as a small landholder, near Valenciennes was entertaining some friends at supper a few evenings ago, when several light larks were heard at the window. The master of the house surprised at the familiarity, and wondering whether the nocturnal visitor were a beggar, a soldier billeted on his farm, or some crony playing a little trick, at last got up from the table and opened the window, to see if he could get into the room, few two or three times round the apartment, uttering cries of joy, and then alighted on the ledge of the great open chimney, where it settled itself to rest, as though perfectly familiar with the place and people. The guests gathered round the stranger, and the host, as long as he could see the bird, began to caress it, when she found its neck a bit of pink note-paper, neatly folded, and tied with a narrow ribbon. The ribbon being carefully cut, the bit of paper was found to contain these words:

"For nearly five years that I have taken care of her, she has lodged on the chimney-piece of the Albertini, near Mount Vesuvius, in Italy. I shall be your friend, if you befriend her."

The bit of paper was replaced by another, containing these words: "She has just arrived, tapping at my window and resting on my chimney-piece. She shall be well men of name and mark who have given their bodily presence at feast or play or concert."

THE ANTIQUITY OF MAN.

From Galignani, March 10.

Of all the papers presented to the Academy of Science on the antiquity of man, there is none, we venture to say, so perceptibly decisive of the question as that presented last week by M. Lartet and Christy, confirming the opinion that the human race was in existence during the diluvian period. The above gentlemen having, during the latter part of 1863, visited the district of Sarlat, in the department of the Dordogne, explored among other places, the Grotte des Eyzies, situated at thirty-five metres above the level of the small stream called the Beane. Here, under a breccia covering the whole floor of the cavern, they found a collection of broken bones, a hee, cinders, and a vast number of flint instruments. So far there was nothing very extraordinary, but on searching further, they discovered other implements and weapons made of the antlers of the reindeer, the animal of all others, hitherto considered, and not without reason, to have inhabited France during the diluvian or drift period; that is, long before our earliest historical ages.

The explorers had previously ascertained that there was no sign of the soil having been moved at later periods; bones and series of vertebrae of the reindeer were firmly embedded in the breccia. But this is not all, among the implements found, there were some which testified a degree of civilization far beyond any that might have been suspected to exist at so remote a period; viz, needles made out of the substance of the reindeer's antlers, with eyes to receive the thread; marks of sharp instruments in the bones, showing that the sinews had been cut in order to make them into threads, a practice existing among the Esquimaux to this day, and lastly, sculptured antlers of no mean execution. Our authors especially describe one in which the artist has shown wonderful taste in adapting the form of an animal to the shape of a hand-axe, forming part of a kind of dagger, the blade of which is made out of an antler. Considering that the artist had nothing but flint at his command, the execution of this piece of art is quite astonishing. The hind legs of the animal represented follow the blade; the forelegs are bent under the belly, and the head forms a curve with the back, which completes the handle.

Another curious circumstance connected with this piece is that this handle is much too small for a hand of the present day. Can it be that the primitive race was inferior in size to the present one? This would be contrary to the traditions of most ancient nations, which generally represent their forefathers as being of a gigantic stature.

As to the age when the reindeer inhabited France, our authors admit that all is conjecture; but that none of the ancient authors mention or describe the reindeer; that Caesar only spoke of it from hearsay; that the figure of the reindeer is not to be met with on the ancient Gallic coins; that the dolmans or ornaments of the Celts have never been found to contain any remains of the animal; and that none have been discovered in the turf beds of France, nor in the lacustrine settlements of Switzerland. Hence there is every reason to suppose that the existence of the reindeer in France was confined to a period of which no record exists; that that period was the diluvian one; and that man inhabited the earth many centuries before the time usually assigned to his first appearance.

At the same meeting M. de Vibraye sent in a paper in which he presented some new facts; we have seen primitive man armed with flints; M. de Vibraye shows that, although he had no knowledge of metallurgy, he was well aware of the existence of metals, although the drift strata are not metalliferous. In the lower bed of the grottoes of Arcy (Yonne), containing the bones of the extinct *Ursus spelæus*, or fossil bear, our author found a fragment of hydrated iron, exactly similar to a specimen discovered in a cromlech at La Brochère, near Pornic (Loire Inférieure); the same bed also contained a piece of peroxide of manganese. Two similar specimens were brought to light in the Fourneau du Diabole at Bourdelles (a reindeer stratum); and, lastly, a small piece of pure copper, almost entirely covered with a coating of green carbonate of copper and cubic crystals of protoxide of the same metal, was dug up in the défilé of Laugerie, in the commune of Tavaux.

M. de Vibraye is decidedly of the opinion that some commerce existed in these remote times, because the various manufactured articles found in the drift often lie together with articles which could only have come from a distant coast, the drift being of too modern formation to admit of any other explanation of the circumstance. Our author also mentions the discovery of a human atlas (the first vertebrae of the neck) which would account for the bones of the hyena and other extinct species; a fact which tends to carry man's first appearance upon earth

or 80,000 men, and can increase their numbers indefinitely, while the Danes probably have only some 18,000 or 20,000 in Alsen. The Sound is narrow, and can be crossed with ease by the Prussians, supported as they are with such tremendous artillery. If the campaign continues, nothing can be expected but the destruction of the remains of the Danish army by an overwhelming force. Why, then, may not the campaign now cease? Every one will acknowledge that Alsen can be conquered, and if the allies hold their hand now Europe will give them full credit for having virtually conquered it.

THE SHAKESPEARE TER-CENTENARY IN ENGLAND.

At the conclusion of the great Ter-centenary week in England, the results were summed up by several public writers. The following estimate is from a London contemporary:—

"The same causes which wrought the discomfiture of the external show added, doubtless their weight to the deterioration of what may be called the more intellectual part of the preparations. Nothing can be done effectually without practical and practical knowledge, and the bringing together of a select band of orators at a dinner, or the casting of a commemorative play, can scarcely be expected to be well done by those who never did the like before. But for the general withholding from any active participation in the celebration, so far as it has been attempted at all, a graver reason lies, partly perhaps unconsciously, at the root. Those who could truly understand Shakespeare do not love to talk about him, or hear him talked about. He tinges their life, he fills their imagination, he offers the impersonation, in every different sphere, of what they love or what they seek to be; he gives words to their profoundest unspoken, almost unthought thoughts; he fills the soft magic world of human joy and sorrow, laughter and tears, round the images of the divine spirit that dwell within us all; and therefore it is a sort of desecration, it jars upon the most sensitive nerves, when unsympathetic voices expatiate on his characteristics or clever orators lug in by head and shoulders their appropriate quotations. So it happens that the true Shakespearians would not bring themselves to be present at the banquets or the other forms of common-place glorification which have seemed fitting to very respectable persons. They have rather fled away where no discordant sound could reach them, and their real number is rather to be estimated by those who are conspicuously absent, than by the few men of name and mark who have given their bodily presence at feast or play or concert."

ERNESTO ALBERTINI, JR. The bit of paper was replaced by another, containing these words: "She has just arrived, tapping at my window and resting on my chimney-piece. She shall be well men of name and mark who have given their bodily presence at feast or play or concert."

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As to the age when the reindeer inhabited France, our authors admit that all is conjecture; but that none of the ancient authors mention or describe the reindeer; that Caesar only spoke of it from hearsay; that the figure of the reindeer is not to be met with on the ancient Gallic coins; that the dolmans or ornaments of the Celts have never been found to contain any remains of the animal; and that none have been discovered in the turf beds of France, nor in the lacustrine settlements of Switzerland. Hence there is every reason to suppose that the existence of the reindeer in France was confined to a period of which no record exists; that that period was the diluvian one; and that man inhabited the earth many centuries before the time usually assigned to his first appearance.

At the same meeting M. de Vibraye sent in a paper in which he presented some new facts; we have seen primitive man armed with flints; M. de Vibraye shows that, although he had no knowledge of metallurgy, he was well aware of the existence of metals, although the drift strata are not metalliferous. In the lower bed of the grottoes of Arcy (Yonne), containing the bones of the extinct *Ursus spelæus*, or fossil bear, our author found a fragment of hydrated iron, exactly similar to a specimen discovered in a cromlech at La Brochère, near Pornic (Loire Inférieure); the same bed also contained a piece of peroxide of manganese. Two similar specimens were brought to light in the Fourneau du Diabole at Bourdelles (a reindeer stratum); and, lastly, a small piece of pure copper, almost entirely covered with a coating of green carbonate of copper and cubic crystals of protoxide of the same metal, was dug up in the défilé of Laugerie, in the commune of Tavaux.

M. de Vibraye is decidedly of the opinion that some commerce existed in these remote times, because the various manufactured articles found in the drift often lie together with articles which could only have come from a distant coast, the drift being of too modern formation to admit of any other explanation of the circumstance. Our author also mentions the discovery of a human atlas (the first vertebrae of the neck) which would account for the bones of the hyena and other extinct species; a fact which tends to carry man's first appearance upon earth

several thousand years further back than any historical record in existence. Among other singular discoveries we must not forget to mention a small statue representing a woman, and carved out of an elephant's tusk—a wonderful feat, considering that it could only have been achieved with flint implements. The drift is sometimes found to cover places where fires had been made, and the ashes and cinders revealing the fact lie on blocks of limestone foreign to the district, and evidently chosen expressly on account of their power of resisting the effects of heat. M. de Vibraye does not hesitate to admit the existence of man during the geological drift period, and considers the question definitely set at rest.

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Table with 2 columns: Fund Name and Amount. 1863. The Capital £188,703 0 0 The Reserve Fund 216,586 11 11 The Life Fund 649,701 8 5 The Fire Re-insurance Fund 159,517 8 0 Total £1,213,517 8 4

Increased in 1860 to: The Capital £188,902 0 0 The Reserve Fund 216,146 11 11 The Life Fund 707,768 7 3 Fire Re-insurance Fund 146,992 2 10 Total £1,259,828 2 0

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J. H. MAITLAND, Resident Secretary, September 10. 217

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