17. Queen's Road West
Regent's Park, London
N.W.

7th August 1860

(17)

My Dear Sir

I thank you for your valuable and interesting letter of the 30th of last month. On conferring with Mr Huxley, we are agreed, that your notice on the Arrow-Heads will come out with most effect, when we are able to add to it the additional information which you propose to send to me on your return to Paris at the end of October. Therefore, your notice will not appear in the No. of our Quarterly Journal of the 1st of November, but in the following, on the 1st of February.

I received, and Sir Charles Lyell received, the interesting memoir of M. Nauleet, & I thank you for having thought of us. Mr Huxley will be glad to receive a copy, if there is one to spare. I shall not fail to inform any of my geological friends going to Paris of the objects, connected with the memoir, which you say are in your apartments in Paris; and if any of them should not already have had the pleasure of making your personal acquaintance, I shall take the liberty of giving them a letter of introduction to you.

The question of the co-existence of man with the remains of extinct species of animals is taken up with great earnestness by some of our most able geologists. By no one more so than my Son-in-law Sir Charles Lyell. He has been in the north of France & in Belgium devoting himself, almost exclusively, to that great and most important subject. He has not had time to tell me more than a few particulars, but what he has told me I will transcribe, as it will interest you. He says that his visits to the Caves near Liège will enable him to speak with more confidence respecting the antiquity of the fossil skulls collected 30 years ago by Dr Schmerling, and which are now in the Museum of the University of Liège. That Dr Spring, who has studied much the anatomy

of the different races of man, has lately returned from a journey to Copenhagen, where the Archaologist Worsaae showed him 60 human skeletons from peat-bogs &c. Having mixed them together, and left Dr Spring to separate them, he (Dr S.) at once divided all those of the Mongolian from the Caucasian race, as Worsaae had previously determined; showing an exact coincidence of opinion. Dr Spring went over the Schmerling Liege collection with Lyell, pointing out why Schmerling's great skull, contemporary with the Elephant, was Mongolian; whilst a jaw, which Lyell had himself got in a fresher state from the cave of Engihoul, was Celtic, or a branch of the great Caucasian type. — Lyell visited Maestricht to follow up the same line of research. M. van Binkhorst had sent word to him, that in the year 1823, bones of elephant, hippopotamus, and man were found in digging a Canal. Lyell visited the spot, and was convinced that sepulture was out of the question. Most of the bones are said to be at Leyden; some of them probably at Louvain. Lyell having heard few are in the Museum of the town of Maestricht got M. van Binkhorst to show them to him, and after overhauling many elephants' teeth, he actually turned out a large piece of a human skull, much to the surprise of the keeper of the museum, himself a professor in the College and a Medical man, who confessed it had never occurred to him to make the search when he was handling the specimen; but on being put upon the scent, he rummaged out a fine os sacrum of the same species, (Homo sapiens, Linn.) — After some resistance, Lyell was allowed to take the Cranium to show Prof. Schaffhausen of Bonn — Lyell went to examine the site of two human skeletons found in the Loess near Maestricht, which are now at Bonn, & got a fragment of another skull found some leagues off, at a depth of 15 feet —

I have not heard the result of his visit to Bonn.

Dr Falconer has recently received a large collection of fossilized bones, collected by Captain Spratt in a cave in Malta. Captain Spratt is in command of one of our surveying ships in the Mediterranean, where he has been for several years, & has made several valuable

communications to the Geological Society. Falconer informs me that even with the cursory examination he has as yet been able to make of the collection, he finds it to be of the highest interest. He has found the bones of a dwarf species of the African elephant, and bones of a gigantic swan. He thinks that there is some evidence of Miocene age. He intends to visit the cave next November. I am sorry to say that his medical advisers tell him that the state of his lungs make it imperative that he should keep the winter in a warm climate.

About 180 years ago a Bishop of the Anglican Church published at Oxford an edition of the Bible with marginal notes, and added the Chronology of Archbishop Usher, published about ten years previously. He set over against the first verse of the first Chapter of the Book of Genesis, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." } Years 4004 B.C.

and that date is given in every bible with marginal notes, which has since been printed in this country, up to the present day. I believe that, so far as this country is concerned, that is the source of the fixed belief that man is a very modern creation.

I have not yet had an opportunity of examining Bibles printed since that period in foreign countries. Not many are printed in France I suppose, as the Roman Catholic priesthood does not encourage the laity to read the Bible. Can you tell me what is the dogma of the R.C. Church on the subject, and in what recognized book of authority I can find the dogma explicitly stated?

Believe me My Dear Sir
Yours faithfully
Leonard Horner

M. Lartet

Albany