

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF IRELAND,

Office, 51, Stephen's Green, DUBLIN,

172

April 27th 1864

My dear Sir

I have read with the greatest interest your account of the implements found in the Caverns of Perigord which you have been so kind as to send me, and which I had previously seen mentioned in the letter of my friend Dr. Falconer in the Times. — I hope shortly to send you a paper of my own on some bones of *Cervus megaceros* with very curious markings on them which I believe were made not by man, but by preface against each other, or against foreign

bodies

while they lay in the shell mark
underneath our Irish bogs.

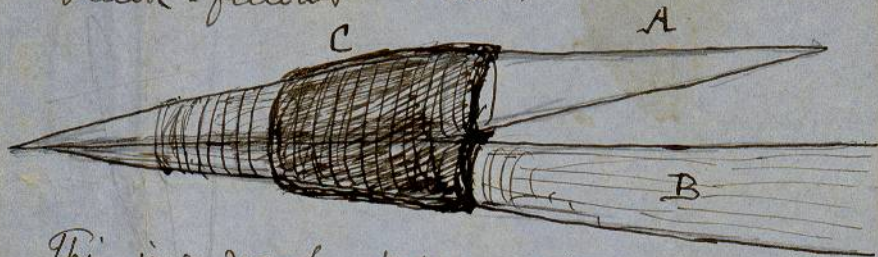
I am ~~publishing~~ publishing this
paper to induce caution, and
because I believe that we have
not yet any undoubted evidence
of the existence of Man in Ireland
contemporaneously with the Meiriden
& the Cervus Megaceros. Perhaps

evidence may yet turn up, but
I wish it to be proved before it
is admitted. — You have now beautiful-
ly established the fact for France
& there can be ^{no} ~~little~~ doubt of it
in England, but we have not yet
found in Ireland flint-implements
of the ancient type, though those
of more modern forms, arrow-heads



&c are numerous enough.

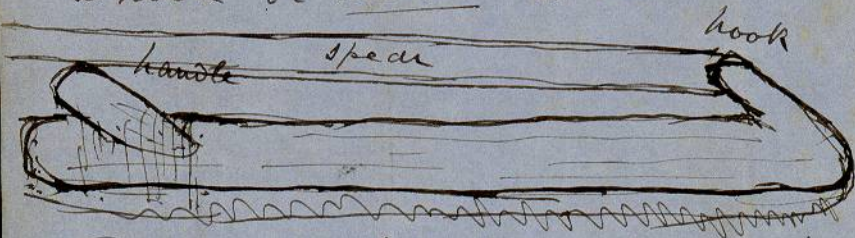
I was struck with two of ⁹⁹ your
figures as like those which I have
seen used in Australia among the
"black-fellows" there.



This is a rough sketch of the point of a
spear with which a poor fellow was
killed before me, my gun missing fire
unfortunately. A was a spindle-shaped
piece of bone four inches long, and
B was a slender stick 6 feet long
A being tied on to it with grass-string
& fastened with gum at C. It thus
formed at once both point and
barb. It struck the man in the
back, splintered one of the vertebrae,
broke the head of two ribs, & nearly
came out at his breast, the bone point
being wholly buried in the cavity of

the chest, & remaining there when we drew out the spear, the gum being loosened by solution.

It was thrown by a wommerah or throwing-stick, which is a piece of wood about 2 feet long with a handle to grasp at one end and a hook or crochet at the other



That is a very bad sketch, but it will serve to explain. The hook fits into a hollow at the end of the spear, which is held lightly between the fingers & then lanced from the stick which acts as if the man had a finger two feet long to dart his spear from
your figures 4 & 8 plate 2, put