

the outer margin. Height 0·2 inch, greatest breadth 0·32 inch.

This shell resembles *H. pudica*, Drouet, in shape, but is much larger. It is also distinguished by the bands of colour. It is, with *Achatina octona*, the commonest of land shells in Trinidad, and it is the only species of mollusk I have ever observed on the guava (*Psidium pomiferum*), a plant which is shunned by most animals on account of its strong aromatic taste and smell.

The foot of the *animal* is acutely pointed behind; the eyes quite sessile on the outer side of the tentacles, which are long and obtusely pointed. The hairy periostraca of the shell readily comes off, and is rarely seen in cabinet examples.

The lingual dentition is 00.3.1.3.00. The lingual teeth of this species closely resemble those of *H. zonata*, which I have already described; but in *H. barbata* the two inner laterals are glassy and pellucid. The central tooth is broader, and seems to be divided longitudinally. The minute slender uncini are probably about fifty, becoming almost indistinguishable towards the edges of the dental band.

It is my intention to forward to the British Museum the types of the species here described so soon as this communication shall have been made public.

Port of Spain, Trinidad.
August 2, 1864.

XXVIII.—On the Asserted Occurrence of Flint Knives under a Skull of the extinct *Rhinoceros hemitacchus*, in an Ossiferous Cave in the Peninsula of Gower. By H. FALCONER, F.R.S., &c.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

In the important memoir by MM. Lartet and H. Christy, on the Ossiferous Caves of the Périgord, a statement occurs on the above head which demands correction by me. After commenting on the proofs of the co-existence of Man with certain extinct species, such as *Elephas primigenius*, *Rhinoceros tichorhinus*, &c., M. Lartet adds the following passage:—

“Cette hypothèse de la contemporanéité humaine s’étendrait même à une autre espèce d’éléphant (*E. antiquus*, Falc.) dont l’extinction est réputée plus ancienne encore. Les restes de cet éléphant ont été recueillis, en France, à Saint-Roch, près Amiens, à Clichy, près Paris, et à Viry-Nouveau (Aisne), dans des assises diluviennes ou quaternaires renfermant aussi des silex taillés de main d’homme. On n’a pas, que nous sachions, encore observé

l'Elephas antiquus dans les cavernes de France ; mais en Angleterre, dans la presqu'île de Gower (pays de Galles), il a été trouvé, dans plusieurs cavernes explorées par le docteur Falconer et le colonel Wood. Il y était associé avec un rhinocéros (*R. hemitæchus*, Falc.) d'espèce également ancienne ; et, dans la caverne de Long Hole, plusieurs silex taillés ont été rencontrés sous une tête de ce dernier rhinocéros”*.

As his authority for the statement contained in the two last lines of the foregoing extract, given in italics, M. Lartet cites Sir Charles Lyell ('Antiquity of Man,' 3rd edit., Appendix, p. 513, 1864) ; and on referring to that work, I find the following sentence :—“ In Bosco's Den no human bones or implements were discovered ; but in the neighbouring cave, called Long Hole, where the same zealous explorer” (Colonel Wood) “ detected flint knives beneath the skull of *Rhinoceros hemitæchus*, several fossil bones have been obtained which exhibit transverse and other cuts like those which M. Desnoyers would ascribe to human handiwork” (*op. cit.* p. 514).

M. Lartet's great eminence as a palæontologist, and the leading share which he has had in bringing to light and investigating, with such truth and sagacity, the evidence respecting the antiquity of human relics in France, are calculated to give weight and currency to any statement adopted on trust and repeated by him without verification. In this instance he has been gravely misled by the authority on which he relied. No skull of *Rhinoceros hemitæchus* above flint knives was ever discovered by my friend and fellow-labourer Colonel Wood in 'Long Hole' cave, nor was any skull of that extinct species ever found in it. The flint implements which he found there, together with the immediately associated fossil remains, were at the time transmitted to me for investigation, and out of my hands they have never passed. They have been shown by me to several men of science, including Sir Charles Lyell. A detached shell of a milk molar of *Rhinoceros hemitæchus* was among the number : hence, probably, the origin of the assertion about the skull,—a small milk molar having been exalted into a skull found *above* flint implements, doubtless from inadvertence, misconception, or error of recollection.

The evidence of man having been a cotemporary of the earliest of the extinct mammals of the Quarternary period is sufficiently beset with difficulties, without being further perplexed by supposititious facts or exaggerated statements. Hence the necessity of this correction.

21 Park Crescent, Portland Place,
June 28, 1864.

* *Revue Archéologique*, 1864, “ Sur des figures d'Animaux gravées ou sculptées,” &c. p. 265. Separate edition, “ Cavernes du Périgord,” p. 35.