

nidad," being Part I. of the West Indian Survey. The salses above-mentioned are also described in this most useful work.

Believe me, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

B. LECHMERE GUPPY.

*Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 2, 1862.*

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*Archæology and Geology.*

DEAR SIR,—Three articles in the 'Geologist' of June, 1862, have so far interested me as to induce a few remarks, if I do not obtrude upon your space, viz. that of J. Wyatt, Esq., F.G.S., that of T. R. Jones, Esq., F.G.S., and that of your foreign correspondent, S. J. M. The two former discuss the orbitolina; the latter writes on the trenching of geologists in their investigations on the domains of the archæologist and the historian. The illustrations given by J. Wyatt, Esq., F.G.S., coincide exactly with specimens in my collection which I have obtained from the Chalk in different localities of this Island. My specimens include varieties which range in a graduated scale from the orbitolina, with a small indentation, to those with a perfect and natural hole, smoothly perforating these foraminifera, without the intervention of artificial boring. In addition to these geological specimens, I possess also antiquarian specimens of the orbitolina, obtained from tumuli or barrows examined by me—indeed, one at least, was obtained from among the beads of a necklace found upon an Anglo-Saxon skeleton, which convinced me that it had been strung as a bead among those of amber, glass, and terra-cotta, which ornamented the person of our exhumed ancestor. There can be little doubt that these ancient people appropriated both natural as well as artificial perforated objects for their personal adornment. From the same barrow from which I obtained my perforated orbitolina, I procured a naturally-perforated pebble, and an artificially-perforated lump of lead, while the amber beads consisted of natural lumps of unshaped amber, simply perforated for suspension. S. J. M. gives ample reasons which prove that the geologist, if he trenches upon the domains of the antiquarian, does not do so without much advantage to the latter, especially in these days of Drift discoveries, which, by the bye, have carried the antiquarian back to a human period of which he formerly had no conception. It is to be hoped that the geologist and the antiquarian may pursue these interesting modern discoveries in a spirit of wholesome rivalry, inasmuch as their so doing will conduce much to the elucidation of an obscure period, both historically and geologically.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ERNEST P. WILKINS, F.G.S.

*Newport, Isle of Wight.*

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*Mammalia from Maccagnone Cave.*

SIR,—In the table professing to show "the association of the earliest evidences of the human race with remains of extinct and recent Mammalia," p. 228 of the June number of the 'Geologist,' I observe that the following species are attributed to the Grotto of Maccagnone, in Sicily, for the original description of the contents of which I am responsible:—1. *Felis*

*spelæa*; 2. *Ursus spelæus*; 3. *Hyæna spelæa*; 4. *Bos primigenius*; 5. *Hippopotamus major*; 6. *Cervus megaceros*: making six out of the eight species assigned to Maccagnone.

These six identifications are simply imaginary; not one of the species, so far as I am aware, having been as yet mentioned on authority, as occurring in the Grotto of Maccagnone.

Such a wholesale manufacture of species, in a case of such gravity, requires no comment.

London, June 23, 1862.

Your obedient servant,  
H. FALCONER.

*Discovery of a Human Skeleton and other Remains in the bed of the River Soar, at Leicester.*

On the western side of the town of Leicester there is an old bridge, known as the "Bow Bridge." It has recently been taken down for reconstruction; during the progress of the work the stream has been stopped, and a dam thrown across the channel north and south of the bridge, leaving the bed of the river dry. The upper surface was a black, muddy, alluvial deposit, but this being penetrated, the pure Drift gravel presented itself. This gravel lies immediately on the abraded surface of the Upper Keuper Sandstone, which here dips away under the town towards the Liassic hills on the eastern side. In excavating on the east side of the old bridge for the new foundations, and digging in the bed of the river, the workmen came upon ground in the Drift of a mixed character, gravel and silt. After digging out three feet of this, they came upon a human skeleton lying face upwards, the knees drawn towards the head. It was nearly entire, a few of the vertebræ and the smaller bones of the hands and feet only are wanting. Near this skeleton were found the skull of a horse, ox horns, and other bones.

The old bridge is of some antiquity, and is supposed to have been erected in the twelfth century. The road to which it leads is the *Via Vicinialis* of the old Roman town of Rata, and leads to the "Home Way," another Roman road near Leicester. Over this bridge Richard the Third rode to the field of Bosworth, and his body is said to have been thrown over the bridge into the river by the multitude. Be this as it may, the navvies and common people firmly believe this skeleton to be the remains of that monarch; but as Richard's body was "hacked to pieces," and his age at his death was about thirty-five, and as the bones bear no appearance of being "hacked," and the last molar being still in its socket, no weight can be given to such an impression. Certainly Richard the Third had cut his "wisdom teeth."\*

23rd June, 1862.

JAMES PLANT.

\* These remains have been transmitted to us for inspection. It is a young, and seemingly not adult, woman's skeleton.—ED. GEOL.