



Exploration of Cave Ha, Near Giggleswick, Settle, Yorkshire.

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likeness of the characters with those of the inscriptions described by Mr. Harrison is worth consideration. It seems evident that the signs of the inscriptions might be old, but on the other hand they might be of a recent date, since we see in the native writing nearly the same characters. That proves that the existing race of Easter Island have the use of hieroglyphic writing, and that by intercourse with the present population it would be possible to discover the secret of deciphering the old inscriptions. Great light on this and other ethnological questions could be obtained if an accurate survey of the Easter Island were made. The MS. also contains a curious map of the Island, with soundings, and the following description of the inhabitants: "The number of natives seems to be about 1,200; they are amiable and did not bear any weapons when they came to us; the men are tall, strong and well constituted, of great vivacity and agility; the women are few and generally short; all are of a dark colour, but not at all black, and their figure is well formed; the pronunciation is easy, because they used to repeat without difficulty all that we said: in spite of that we were unable to understand their language."

Mr. HARRISON in reply, said the interesting discovery by Señor de la Rosa of the signature by Easter Islanders one hundred years ago to a treaty with the Spanish Admiral Gonzalez, shows that some traces of the custom of using hieroglyphics existed at that date. The sign of a sitting figure, as I have pointed out, occurs in connection with signs which there is reason to believe represent names. The signature by the chief on the above-mentioned occasion may merely show that he drew the sign of an Herronia—the only sign in the deed like any of those in the tablets—to indicate he was a chief. It is well known that the islanders keep up, or did so until a not very distant period, the art of drawing, as is shown by the pictures of ships in full sail on the walls of some of the houses.

Professor T. McKenny Hughes read the following papers:

EXPLORATION *of* CAVE HA, *near* GIGGLESWICK, SETTLE, YORKSHIRE. By T. MCKENNY HUGHES. [With Plate xxii].

IMMEDIATELY above the talus which slopes up to the limestone cliffs on the north side of the road between Austwick and Giggleswick, a fine half-dome shaped cave can be seen from the road as it rises the hill beyond Crow Nest. It is a locality well known in the district, not only for its beauty, but also as the haunt of the boggart of Cave Ha.

The origin of the name "Cave Ha" is not clear, as it appears sometimes to be applied to the cave and sometimes to the hill. In the dialect of the country it might be the Cave Haw or Hill, or it might mean Cave Hall, in allusion to the roofed chamber of the cave,* or, less likely, it might be derived from Cave Hole.

* Hall is always called Ha in that district.

Such a spot might naturally be expected to have been sought for shelter by primæval man as well as by the wandering gypsies and tinkers of later times. Indeed, I was informed that quite recently an eccentric individual lurked about the rocks of Cave Ha Wood undiscovered for months, living on milk which he obtained from the cows on the neighbouring farms at night, and on other produce which he could easily pick up.

I therefore thought it worth while to explore the cave, and by the kind permission of Mrs. Ingleby, of Crow Nest, I dug through the deposits which form the floor, following one wall of the cave to the end, leaving the rest undisturbed in case further evidence should be required with regard to any particular bed. I was assisted in my search by Mr. Tiddeman, Mr. Arthur Lyell, and Mr. Adam Sedgwick, and obtained some interesting results.

The cave or rock shelter, as now seen, is in form somewhat like half a bell. [See sections 1 and 2.] There is a funnel-shaped hollow (e) in the roof, which suggests that the water rushed down from a swallow hole above through this funnel into a chamber which was rounded by the eddying water and pebbles. Denudation then cut back the rock from the great fault which runs below the limestone cliff nearly along the road, and when finally the south side of the chamber was broken off the cave was laid bare much as it is.

The height of the cave from floor to roof is about thirty-five feet, and the funnel is seen to run up about twenty feet more. The floor extends about forty feet from front to back, and about fifty feet from side to side.

The deposits are in descending order :—

A. (1.) Surface mould, with pellets of owls, kestrels, etc., to one foot passing down into

(2.) Earth with much vegetable matter; old floors, with remains of plants, charred wood, pottery of modern and ancient make, antique knives, ox shoe, stone bead, flint flakes and bones of recent animals, all mixed up together by burrowing animals; large numbers of bones of mice in places; two to four feet.

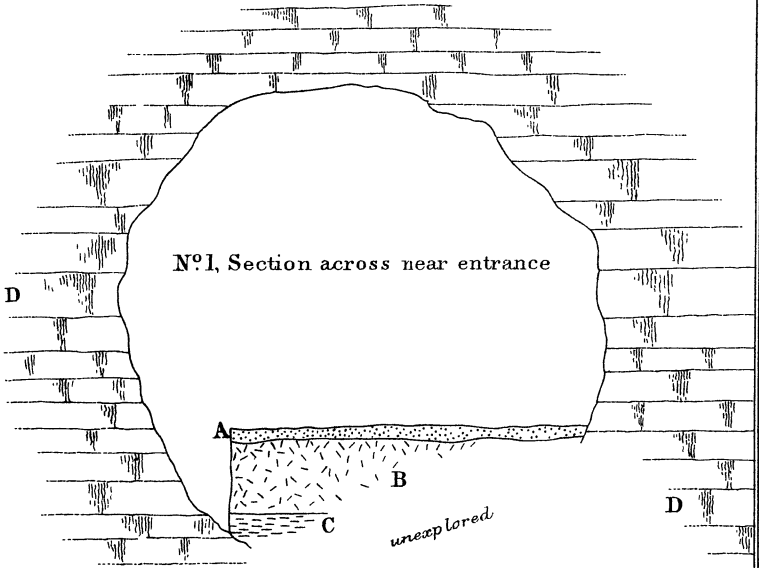
B. (1.) Decomposed powdery travertine and limestone to two feet.

(2.) Fragments of limestone, sometimes cemented into a breccia. Hardly any traces of vegetable mould; comparatively few bones, except those of mice, which are crowded into all the interstices of some portions of the bed.

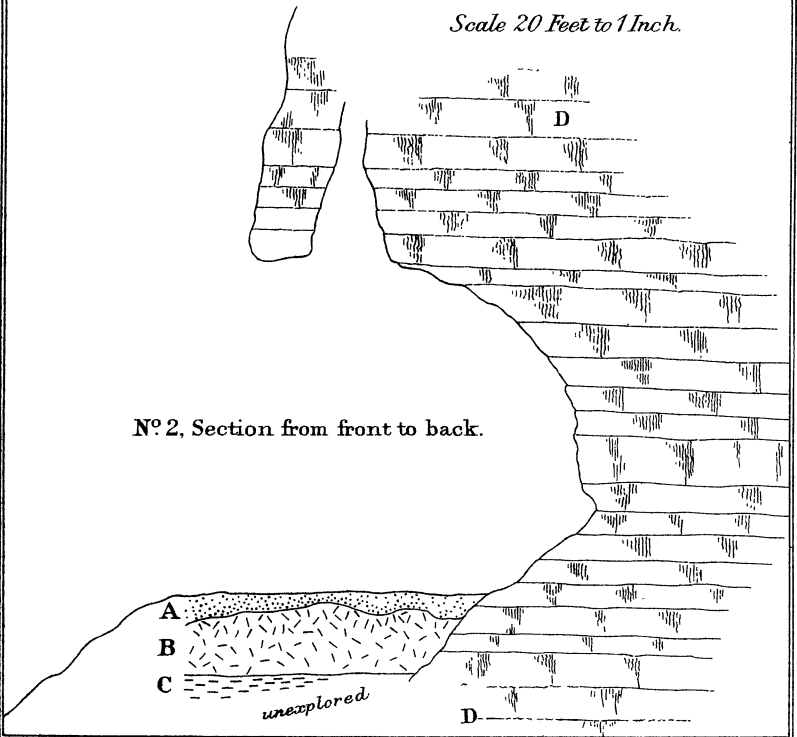
C. Yellow clayey sand and clay, perhaps in a great measure the insoluble residuum of the dissolved limestone; no bones or other remains were found in this bed.

D. Mountain Limestone.

CAVE HA.



Scale 20 Feet to 1 Inch.



C F Kell, Litho London

The bones have been examined by Prof. Busk, in (A) he finds only the remains of recent species. He has determined the following:—Wild goose? small species of duck, small bird, ox, sheep, goat, deer, pig, badger, hare, rabbit, mice, fox, dog, fish (ear bone.)

With these, however, were associated an irregular jumble of ancient and modern works of art, among them more or less dressed flakes of chert and flint. Chert is a material abundant in the district, but flint is very scarce, being only rarely found in some gravels.

There is among the stone relics a curious thing like a flat bead or ring, such as might have been used as an ornament. The pottery is very fragmentary, and though some of it much resembles pottery known to be of neolithic age, still, as it has got mixed up by the operations of rabbits and badgers with other fragments undoubtedly quite modern, the evidence is not satisfactory. There are also some curved iron implements, probably knives of an old fashion; one ox shoe and fragments of bone which may have been turned to account for various purposes.

On the whole these remains do not point to any remote antiquity, and if the pieces of flint and chert may have been used for striking a light, either in the hand or on a gun or pistol, they also may be very recent.

In (B) there were comparatively few bones except those of mice, which in places crowded the interstices between the fragments of limestone.

Prof. Busk has detected, among the bones of larger animals, remains of ox, goat or sheep, hare, dog, and one molar of bear.

No flakes or other traces of man have turned up in this bed, although the above list would lead us to assign no great antiquity to it.

Cave Ha explains one point of considerable interest, that is, the manner of occurrence in some cave deposits of immense quantities of the bones of various species of mice. We find on the surface in Cave Ha, a layer made up of the undecomposed pellets of owls. Some, it is true, are broken up, and the hairs and bones of the mice are strewn over the cave, getting in between any fragment of stone which may have fallen on the floor, other pellets get covered up while still unbroken, and explain those curious little bunches of bones which we find in the beds below, and in which the grouping of the bones is exactly similar to that in the undecomposed pellets above.

Dr. Lund, as quoted by M. Steenstrup,* from a comparison of

* Videnskabelige Meddelelser fra den Naturh. Forening i Kjobenhavn, 1872.

the mode of fracture of the bones of small animals found in some Brazilian caves, with those in the pellets of the owls which now inhabit them, has inferred that they were chiefly brought there by owls, and upon that hypothesis founds an ingenious calculation as to the antiquity of the existing fauna of the country. M. Steenstrup pointed out that the action of the gastric juices produces marks on the bones of animals by which those that have been in the stomachs of birds of prey may be easily recognised, but seems to question the value of the evidence founded upon the mode of fracture only. I am unable to offer any further evidence on these points, as we ought to show not only that the state of the bones in the cave is similar to that of the bones in the pellets, but also that the character of the fracture and decomposition of the surface is different from that which would be produced by the ordinary weathering of the bones. However, the manner of occurrence and grouping of the bones, which in Cave Ha we can trace up to the undecomposed pellets, renders it certain that in that case they are almost all to be referred to owls, which I have frequently seen both there and far in the gloom of other limestone caves of the district.

In Cave Ha, which is light and open, we find traces of kestrels as well as owls. Birds of prey frequently return to the same rock to devour and rest after swallowing their prey. Many omnivorous rodents, such as rats and mice, and some insectivora, such as hedgehogs, carry off into their holes bones and other refuse which require time to pick.

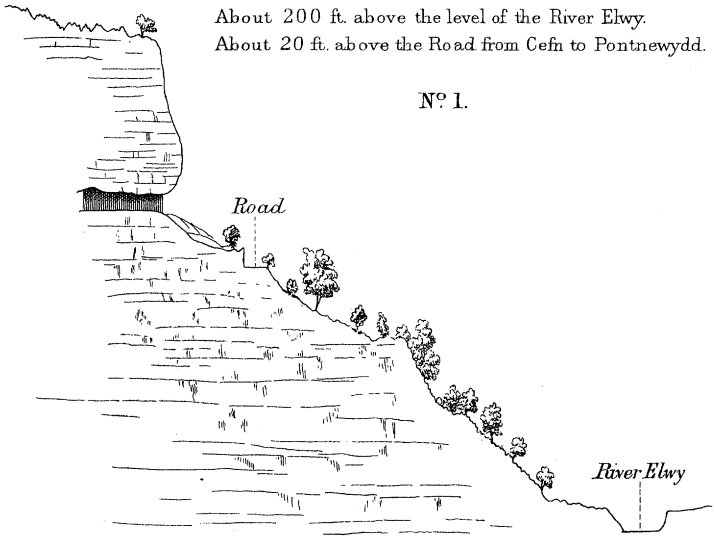
Such considerations offer a simple explanation of the manner of occurrence of numerous bones of small animals associated with some of larger kind in limestone fissures, especially those which occur along ridges. Collected by birds of prey, and perhaps some by man, they are dragged into their little dens by our small scavengers far beyond where they would be carried by man, or even by foxes or cats, while in heavy rains they are swept on into the deeper cracks which drain the rock. Sometimes the whole of such collections have been too hastily referred to the agency of man, especially if his long sojourn in the neighbourhood be well established on other evidence, and his remains found in adjoining caves.

I think I can also suggest an explanation of the superstition of *the Boggart of Cave Ha*. One day when I was at the bottom of the trench examining the earth as it was being thrown out by the workman, I heard a curious laughing voice close behind me. He also heard it, but it did not appear to him to come from exactly the same spot as that from which I thought it came. We went out and saw some boys laughing and playing far down the road. Owing to the peculiar

POSITION OF PONTNEWYDD CAVE, CEFN, ST ASAPH.

About 200 ft. above the level of the River Elwy.
About 20 ft. above the Road from Cefn to Pontnewydd.

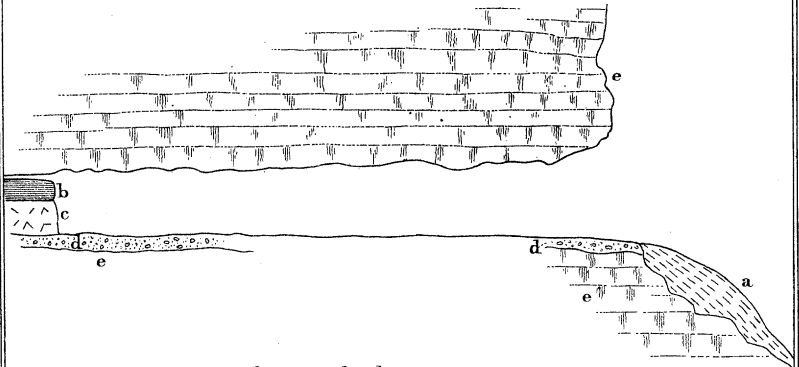
N^o 1.



PONTNEWYDD CAVE, CEFN, ST ASAPH.

Scale 20 Feet to 1 Inch.

N^o 2.



- a. Material thrown out of cave and talus.
- b. Yellow cave earth, about 3 ft. seen in section at the end, evidence that it was near roof all along, lines of black oxide of iron at base.
- c. Breccia of clay with angular fragments of limestone, few Silurian &c. washed in.
- d. Gravel almost all rolled. Silurian, felsstone &c. such as might be derived from Boulder Clay.
- e. Mountain limestone.

form of the cave, their voices seemed to have been collected in an irregular manner into foci, somewhere near where we were standing. I frequently heard the same effects again. Such sounds, heard by early hunters or modern poachers hiding there at night, might easily suggest the ill-defined *Boggart*, which timid people would afterwards see in the gnarled stem of a broken tree or the fitful phosphorescence of some low forms of vegetable life.

The remains which I have found will be placed in the Museum of Giggleswick Grammar School, where so many cave treasures are already lodged. There are indications of caves about fifty yards east of Cave Ha, but the labour of opening them would be considerable at first, as very large blocks have fallen over the mouth.

On the OCCURRENCE of FELSTONE IMPLEMENTS of the LE MOUSTIER TYPE in PONTNEWYDD CAVE, near CEFN, ST. ASAPH. [With Plate xxiii]. By T. McK. HUGHES, M.A., Woodwardian Professor of Geology, Cambridge, and Rev. D. R. THOMAS, M.A., Vicar of Cefn. With a note on the bones by the President.

THIS cave was partly excavated by Mr. Williams Wynn some years ago. Referring to the section I, it will be seen that the cave occurs in the face of a limestone cliff, about 200 feet above the river Elwy. It is further up the river, and at a considerably higher elevation than the celebrated Cefn cave. Referring to Section II.—

a. Material thrown out of the cave.

b. Yellow cave loam, probably the earthy residuum of decomposed limestone with the addition of some clay washed in through cracks and holes. It is rarely laminated, because there could seldom have been in this particular case a sufficient depth of muddy water ponded back to admit of the sorting of particles of various size and weight during tranquil deposition. This deposit seems to belong to the time when the cave was being filled up, so as to be almost cut off from the outside frost and rain. It may be well examined in a clear vertical section left at the far end, where it is seen to be about three feet thick. At the base there are often lines of black oxide of iron.

c. Breccia, consisting chiefly of angular fragments of limestone, with some pieces of pebbles of Silurian and Cambrian rocks, such as might be derived from the drift outside. About three or four feet of this also is seen in the section at the end

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