

APPENDIX.

THE PRE-HISTORIC MAN OF CHESHIRE.

In the discussion which followed the reading of this Paper, (*vide* pp. 193 and 249) Mr. Henry Ecroyd Smith, Honorary Curator, said he felt it "incumbent upon him to protest against its assertions," declaring that "the skeleton was not found below, but several feet above the forest-bog soil. The only peat beneath which it lay is a stratum only a few inches thick composed of a residuum of a comparatively recent marsh—not of the ancient wooded forest." Mr. Smith has since added the following remark—"Having treated this matter more at length in another place, (*viz.*, in *The Reliquary*, for April, 1865,) I leave the issue with the greatest confidence to the judgment of those who may take sufficient interest in the question to investigate it thoroughly."

In support of his own views and in reply to Mr. Smith's objection, Sir Edward Cust procured the formal depositions of three persons more or less acquainted with the exact position in which the remains were found, the substance of them being as follows:—

1. Thomas Wilson, labourer, says, "On the 22nd January, 1864, I was working at the Leasowe Embankment in the said county, and that on the aforesaid day of January, while acting as ganger over the navvies employed on the sea shore, I saw something that I at first thought to be a rusty saucepan, laying in a spot where the tide had washed away the peat soil, and that on pulling it up I found it to be a skull, of which the lower jaw fell on the ground. I then took a shovel and pickaxe and cleared away the blue silt which had gathered about it; and seeing that it lay straight with some bones lying about it that showed it to be a human skeleton, I went and reported it to Mr. Jones."

2. Thomas Jones, Superintendent of the Leasowe Embankment, says, "On the 22nd of January (1864) I was called by Thomas Wilson to inspect a skeleton that he had found upon the shore at the eastern end of the embankment and that, on going to the spot, I saw several human ribs and vertebræ lying on the silt below the ordinary bed of peat, at least three feet below the surface of the peat formation before the tide had destroyed it. That I personally overlooked the careful removal of the remains to the office there; about five or six days afterwards many persons called to see them, but that it was about a fortnight subsequently to their discovery that Mr. Smith and Mr. Moore came with men and instruments to inspect the place where

“it was found, but that the spot was already much filled up by the progress of the tide and much fresh sand had been thrown upon it by the intervening spring tide, which must have greatly altered the ground, because a considerable portion of the sandhill had been at that time washed into the hole and shore about it.”

3. John Shergold, gardener to Sir Edward Cust at Leasowe Castle in Wallasey, says, “On the 23rd of January last (1864) I was informed that the Embankment men had found a human skeleton on the shore, and I went to the office of the Superintendent at the Township of Moreton in the said county, and saw the bones laid out in order on the floor; and that afternoon I proceeded to the spot where they were found, near the centre of the large sandhill, and I think that when first discovered it must have lain, by my observation, more than three feet below the ordinary surface of the peat—that the sea had come over the spot since the body was found, but that the bed on which it lay exposed was composed of blue silt: although there was a mixture of sand, silt and peat lying all about it, I have no hesitation in stating that there must have been at least three feet of peat above the site where it lay.”

ANNUAL EXCURSION.

On Wednesday the 3rd of August, 1864, a party of about ninety, comprising many ladies, several gentlemen not members, and a considerable proportion of the officers and other members of the Society, proceeded to Eaton Hall, the seat of the Marquess of Westminster, K. G., Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Chester. The visit was rather one of pleasure than in strict pursuance of the special objects of the Society, the intention of the gathering being to cultivate and increase social good feeling amongst the members, and to extend to their friends a similar expression of cordiality.

The hall, gardens and pleasure-grounds were visited, and the party dined in the open air on the banks of the Dee within the park, Mr. Buxton, F.R.S.L., occupying the chair, and Mr. Craig Gibson, F.S.A., Hon. Librarian to the Society, acting as Vice-chairman. The usual loyal and complimentary toasts were given after dinner, and the party safely returned to Liverpool in the evening, after having spent a holiday with universal satisfaction.

SHAKSPEARE TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION.

A Special Meeting of the Society was held on the 20th of April, 1864, in celebration of the Tercentenary of the Birth of Shakspeare. It was attended by a numerous company of ladies and gentlemen, before whom the Rev. A. Hume, D.C.I. &c., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society, delivered, in the large lecture hall, an Oration on Shakspeare, which is printed in this volume (see p. 43). The usual