

## Maidstone Museum

### Benjamin Harrison Archive

#### Volume 12

[This volume was started on February 13<sup>th</sup> 1892 with a last recorded date of February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1893 on p 91. It is a straight run from p 1-91 with no turning to the back where pagination starts again, as is so common in these volumes. Though it contains extracts, some of considerable length, it is essentially a diary of events in BH's life, outings, copies, and occasionally originals of letters, sent and received, obituaries, archaeological finds, botanical, zoological and meteorological observations. It is especially notable in that it contains an original letter in response to two sent by BH, from Gabrielle de Mortillet, a fellow eolithophile. Edward Harrison has added to many of the dates, BH frequently being inclined to record the day and month but omit the year. This work was collated by BH some time after 1907, as evidenced by the note at the bottom of p 66.]

Photograph of a picture entitled 'Caught' by Howarth.

P.1 Newcastle election August 1892. The four-line poem below records the victor of this vote as Moreley, with Rathis, the standing candidate, defeated. Newspaper clipping re; 'My favourite Road' about a walk around the Ightham district.

Copy of part of the paper by Knowles about flint factories with this copied section dealing with scrapers. It was taken from the *Anthropological Journal* of 1880. The writer comments that he did not think such scrapers were used as strike-a-lights, being too perfectly finished for such a purpose.

On Whit Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July 1892, BH went with Mr Abbot from Sevenoaks to the Thong Lane quarry. Mr Abbott collected many field mouse bones and shells. BH took tea with Mr and Mrs Holbrook who accompanied him to the station. The day was fine, in contrast to Whit Sunday, which was stormy. The day before, BH, Mrs H and Agnes [one of BH's two daughters] met Mr Abbott at Otford from where they made their way to the Mount, Cotman's Ash, the Birches and Terry's Lodge. That evening they made a trip to the [Basted] fissure. BH accompanied Mr Abbott to Seal Chart as the latter had missed his train.

On Thursday June 16<sup>th</sup> 1892, BH made a trip to Shoreham, Dunstall Priory and Darent Hulme. He began by examining a ploughed field, noting the presence of the Woolwich and Reading beds. Introduced to Mr Hancock by Mr Loveland. Mr Hancock pointed out the 'bright carmine' nature of the stones unearthed there. Comments of a patch of Tertiary pebbles in clay described as 'most stubborn and intractable, appearing like solid blocks of masonry'.

P.3. Continues from previous page with a drawing of a section through the valley of the Darent, which extends right across the page. Sketches of four Palaeolithic hand axes found in Dunstall at a level of 520 OD by de Barri Crawshay a few days after this

trip. BH notes this 'ochreous drift' as a site rich in Palaeolithic finds. Walked to see Gordon Larking in whose garden he noted the presence of 'choice' varieties of Laburnum and other Japanese Shrubs. Having lunched BH returned to the same site via Priory Hill, accompanied by Mr Hancock, where a search revealed 'old types' [by which we may assume he means eoliths]. BH walked home via Romeny Street where he notes a preponderance of Bird's Foot Trefoil and Polygala, which he thought was a sight to be remembered. BH arrived home at 5.30 feeling 'not the least tired'. He tells us that he had not felt well for some time but felt rejuvenated after this successful day out, which gave him confidence in his 'staying powers'.

P.4. A copy of a letter from Worthington G. Smith dated July 21<sup>st</sup> 1892 about his searches at high levels. He says:

'I continue to find the chocolate and ochreous implements on the hill tops. I have however sought but little for them and have no boys or men after them. I cannot get them higher than 799 feet as that is the highest ground in this part of England. I have found them on the highest ground.

My ochreous implements are generally only slightly abraded at times hardly abraded at all. I am getting some MS and illus[trations] ready for printing. When you see my report you will understand better. I have also taken sections of all the excavations and hills, as well as taken a lot of photographs shewing the implement-bearing strata. None of the implementiferous deposits are distinctly water worn, the chocolate implements come from contorted brown drift'

An account of a walk, taken after shop-closing time with Mr. Bell to the (Basted) Fissure on July 7<sup>th</sup> 1892. Bell sketched and noted the placement of adjacent strata, and BH comments on the presence of a downthrow of at least 12 inches which was not continuous on the south where an unfilled fissure existed. They followed the trip to the fissure with a 'long, patient and close scrutiny of the rude implements'. The following morning they spent time examining Crawshay's implements [sketched on the previous page]. BH records receipt of a letter from Edward Harrison telling them of Agnes' success and his finds of 'accepted' implements at Friston, Sussex. A line noting the death of William Diplock who was buried at Friston in Sussex 5 that day.

P.5. On Saturday August 6<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH had a busy day starting with a visit of the Sidcup Literary and Scientific Society who first viewed his implements after which they visited the Rock Shelters, Middle Woods. BH left them at Butter's and Edward 'piloted' the group to the Mote. Mr Mordaunt was the President and Dr Davis the Secretary of the Society.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August 1892. Lent 4 examples of single curved eoliths and 6 examples of pear-shaped eoliths; 7 examples of broad crook points, 4 examples of long and hollow scrapers; 10 examples of unclassified eoliths and 13 from a box containing worn small eoliths as well as 3 worked pebbles. These were sent to Professors Langford and Messenger.

P.6. A letter from AM Bell dated August 5<sup>th</sup> 1892, which continues through p 7 and concludes on p 8, in which he recounts an address to the Edinburgh meeting of the British Association on pre-palaeolithic flints. Very warm letter with a small sketch of

the auditorium. Bell records that he had, at very short notice, been asked to address the meeting on the topic of Eoliths. Tells BH that he gave him a positive mention, which statement elicited a round of applause. He says that both professors William Turner and Arthur Mitchell were very interested with what he had to say about eoliths, the latter of which made plain his intention of visiting Ightham and BH.

P.8. Copy of a letter from AM Bell requesting 'Two quite unworked but much waterworn pebbles from West Yoke'. This was required by Section C of the British Association meeting then being held in Edinburgh and is dated August 9<sup>th</sup> 1892. A short account of the decomposition of the chalk, which followed the deposition of the Thanet Sand, is culled from Whittaker's memoir from *The Geology of the London Basin*. A copy of the report on pre-palaeolithic flints from the Edinburgh British Association meeting of 1892, p.900:

'On the heights of the North Downs of Kent at an altitude of from 600 to 750 feet, a large series of flints has, in the past few years, been collected, chiefly by Mr Benjamin Harrison, of Ightham, who first directed attention to them as possessing signs of human handiwork. These flints, if accepted as the work of man, possess a peculiar interest, as their age is undoubtedly very great, and their general style represents an early stage in human culture.

In age they are plainly anterior to the river valleys because they are found on patches of old gravel-beds which lie upon the uneroded plateau between the valleys which slope northward to the Thames. These valleys belong to the Palaeolithic or river-valley age but the valleys are eroded out of the plateau, which form the relic of an older surface, and may in popular speech be named the pre-palaeolithic.

The peculiarity of the flints exhibited is that they are not shaped into particular forms by the will and skill of the workman as Palaeolithic flints are. They are simply stones taken from the ground and used almost in the state in which they are picked up, only the edges are altered, they are chipped flints rather than shaped flints, used tools not made tools. Historically we have relics of such a stage in the stones used by the Bushmen and by the Tasmanian and it is probable that such a stage was general in human history.

The difficulty in identifying flints of this class as having actually been human implements is that they are neither flakes nor bulbed; these, the hallmarks of flint work are absent, they have only the marks of use.

However, some authorities have accepted them, and others have rejected them. The writer gave the reasons which have convinced him of their authenticity, namely, that the chipping is regular and purposelike, such as nature is not likely to have hit upon, it is a sometimes within a hollow curve, where natural agencies could not act, the edges of many unbulbed flints have far more regular marks of wear, which is the true indication of use by man that many bulbed flakes possess whose edges have undoubtedly been used; and lastly there is a sequence in the types which leads into the types of the river-valley period; this is especially visible in a series of pear-shaped flints with chipped edges similar to, and almost identical in form with, the pear-shaped hache of St Acheul.'

There follows a copy of a letter from J. Allen Brown dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 1893 in which he discusses eoliths; he says:

‘Before I start I want to send you my “pale man in NW Middlesex” Please accept it with my best wishes and hearty congratulations on the success which has attended your labours in discovering and massing together so large a number of specimens of the handiwork of “Eolithic man”.

The classification of the various forms of the implements which you have enabled me to inspect, is a great help to their full recognition as works of human art. I think you have reason for feeling you had a very successful day on Saturday, you must expect scepticism for some time to come and you must not expect that all the specimens you collect...’

Here the letter is cut off and BH moves on to record part of Professor Macalister’s address to Section H of the 1892 Edinburgh British Association meeting : ‘On the subject of the antiquity of man there are no fresh discoveries of serious importance to record. My esteemed predecessor at Leeds, two years ago, reviewing the evidence of the earliest traces of humanity concluded his survey with “On the whole though it appears to me that the present verdict as to Tertiary man must be in the form of not proven”. Subsequent research has not contributed any new facts which lead us to modify that finding. The most remarkable of the recent discoveries under this head is that of the rude implements of the Kentish chalk plateau described by Professor Prestwich: but while they are evidently of archaic type, it must be admitted that there is even yet room for difference of opinion as to the exact geological age’.

A copy of the full account of pre-palaeoliths, given to section H of the BA Edinburgh meeting 1892 by AM Bell which continues to p 13. In it Bell discusses eoliths, many of which he exhibits at the meeting. He has collected many of the specimens but acknowledges BH, to whom he is indebted, as the donor of many of the specimens on display.

P.9. Bell acknowledges the Pleistocene origins of the river valleys flanking the high-level gravel drifts of the North Downs but points out that the plateaus on the downs predate the valleys considerably. Because the eoliths on display are from the plateau, and therefore much older than the valleys, from which most of the palaeolithic implements had been found, he has chosen to call eoliths ‘prepalaolithic flints’.

He notes that eoliths are: ‘...chipped about the edges, but they are shaped by flaking, and they do not shew the bulb of percussion, which is such an invaluable aid in the study of these times when the working of flint was the most advanced step which man had made in his long warfare with nature’. He then asks why such stones, lacking as they did the accepted marks of authenticity, should be considered as artefacts.

Bell suggests that all in the room probably share the commonly accepted view of man’s emergence from more lowly forms over a long timespan. At this point he jokes that, had there been more like Lord Kelvin [whom we must assume was present in the audience] man might have made quicker progress to his present advanced state.

P.10. Reiterates the then commonly held view that the Palaeolithic stone tools found in the river drifts were, until the discovery of eoliths, held to be the first definite trace of human handiwork. He notes that some of these tools show great skill in their manufacture, noting the fact that such artefacts were shaped in such a way as to suggest an advanced cognitive state in the makers of such tools, who must have had a concept of what the finished article would be. Another joke: '...the first Whig was the devil. I am not so sure of the claim... I rather think that the first Whig was Palaeolithic Man'.

He goes on to suggest that, given the above observations, there must have been a prior state, quite probably many sequential states over time during which human advances were made, and that there must have been a time when stones were used, opportunistically and unmodified, virtually the state in which they were found. The edges might have been 'chipped' in order to sharpen them, but otherwise left as nature made them. Ethnological evidence, such as that gained from study of the Bushmen and the aboriginal people of Tasmania, is cited in support of this argument. It is this stage of development that Bell, who refers to it as the '... age of chipped flint', believes eoliths represent.

P.11. The lecture then moves on to bullet-point the features on eoliths that confirm their artifice. There are six points, which are:

- The chipping all round, which looks like deliberate design feature
- Many of the flints are chipped within a curved edge [concave] which, it is suggested, is not likely to have been naturally effected
- Many are worked on one side while the other side is untouched by man or nature and seems suitable for the attachment of a handle. The irregularity of nature's work compared to the regularity of human chipping is noted
- On many eoliths, of a 'boat-shape' the chippings go straight along a steep edge, not seen in nature.
- Putative 'types' can be discerned in many eoliths, probably antecedents of the river valley types of palaeoliths
- The sixth and final argument in favour of eoliths is that, in his opinion, many unbulbed eoliths show edge working 'more definitely worked than bulbed flakes'

P.12. Bell then shows the audience two stones, one with a bulb and chipped edges which he is convinced was made by man and not a product of nature and another unbulbed but with similar chipped edges [an eolith] about whose artificial status he is equally convinced.

P.13. He suggests that it is edge chipping, not the presence of a bulb that defines an artefact. He makes a biblical analogy saying; 'The bulb is the bulb of Jacob, the edge is the edge of Esau'. Once again he acknowledges BH as the original discoverer of eoliths and quotes Homer; 'Never yet did I see such men, nor ever shall I see'. He points out that no one who has examined BH's large collection of eoliths, has left unconvinced of their authenticity as artefacts. The last quote, with which the lecture is concluded is from Professor Darwin, of Cambridge, who, having viewed Bell's eoliths says; 'Oh that my father had been alive; how he would have entered into this'

P.14. An account of BH's last visit to Marle Wood, dated Friday August 12<sup>th</sup> 1892. This he did in company with Mr Mist [who owned the George and Dragon which was known as 'Mist's, and beloved of cyclists who chose to stay there in droves when cycling was at its most popular]. They called on Lewis Abbott before making their way to the wood where Mr Bevington joined them. They discussed the ministerial defeat of the previous day and later had lunch together. BH read Mr Bell's paper to him. BH and Mr Mist left at three, getting the train home. BH comments on the peaceful nature of what he thought was a perfect day, little knowing it would be 'the last' [this must refer to Mr Bevington's death shortly afterwards].

Extract of a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

On Wednesday August 10<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH walked with Ted [his son Edward] in order to 'walk off a lot of lumbago' and found two implements on a heap in Woodfen's currant plantation. They read and discussed Mr Bell's paper as they walked. At Stansted Heights and Fairseat, by Waterton's old house, they found many eoliths. Then it was on to Vigo where they met Mr James and all made their way home in the trap.

On Wednesday August 17<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH had a visit from General Goodenough and his two daughters followed by a trip to Oldbury, which interested the general who was 'a thorough, earnest archaeologist, one who could take things at true value'.

P.15. Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup> 1892. A long walk with Ted to Wrotham Place and Stanley's hop garden where they find evidence of 'Nature's work, not man's'. From there they proceed to Telegraph House finding an ochreous patch that yielded an eolith. On Thursday August 17<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH is again out and about but did not enjoy himself owing to humid conditions about which everyone complained.

An account of a visit to Darwin's home on August 16<sup>th</sup> 1892. BH starts by detailing the outward journey. He called on George Allen continuing from there on to Green Street Green where he found bone and natural flint. This, he suggests illustrates how nature 'attacks the exposed portions and leaves untouched the protected hollows [he is talking about the plateau flints here and using this observation to strengthen the case for eoliths as artefacts]. Noted and sketched what he saw around him. To Fox's brewery where he notes the yearly consumption of water to be 15 million gallons a year. Finds a 'Plateau implement' in a field to the west of Snag's Lane.

P. 16. Entry from the previous page continues. BH met Uriah Palmer, an old school mate, and his wife who was acquainted with the Darwins and recounts some stories about Charles and the family. On his way he saw the West Kent Hounds pass by and the London coach arrive. He was interested in how quickly the horses were unhitched and new ones harnessed. Walked along Snags Lane and found an eolith in a field to the west. He passed through High Elms Estate [owned by Lord Avebury] on his walk towards Downe, examining every stone heap he passed without success. Uriah Palmer's grandson guided BH to Darwin's house, passing the church and tomb erected for Darwin's brother, Erasmus, in which Darwin had wished to be buried. Mrs Palmer, a resident of the village shared her recollections of Darwin and how, though not a churchgoer, he always attended, weddings and funerals and Christmas services. His generosity locally was noted and he could be relied upon to help the villagers in times of trouble.

P.17. Met by Mrs Darwin at the house who invited them to explore the place at will, sending a friend of Darwin's who was a guest at that time, to show them around. BH noted the walled garden and the tennis court as well as the quite, secluded places including what Darwin called his 'sand path'. BH briefly notes the geology of the place. Afterwards lunched at the Sun in the same room in which he had dined in 1877.

P.17. The account continues to p 18, with the homeward journey with all its geological and other observations well noted. A little sketch of Cudham Church is found at the bottom of page 18. Red clay was noted in the churchyard. They headed for Knockholt Beeches, after crossing a deep valley. Recalls seeing deep carmine coloured clay covered with drift flint on the road to Brasted. BH called in on a schoolmaster with whom he took tea and sandwiches and where he was lectured on potassium and an experiment causing the same to ignite.

P.18. He describes the schoolmaster's place as 'a little S[outh] Kensington in miniature'. They made their way to Well Hill and on to Knockholt where BH noted the corn store, and on to a large wood in which he saw patches of Tertiary deposits. On past the Polhill Arms, through a gate and into a wood towards the Shepherds Barn] in Meenfield Wood where he found himself surrounded by Sir Henry James' pheasants. Met and chatted with Loveland in Shoreham who had just returned from London. From there it was over the hills to St Clere and a chat with Mrs Body. Saw Mars appear and he and his companion had a long and interesting chat on nebulae. Comments that 'chat seems more easily engaged in at night'.

P.19. The last entry concludes with a note about the inscription on Erasmus Darwin's tomb, (sketched) which records both his death and the fact that his brother was Charles, whose body lay in Westminster Abbey.

A short account of an 'oppressive' day on August 18<sup>th</sup> 1892 following a severe storm the previous night.

The following day was even worse and Mr Bevington lay seriously ill in Sevenoaks to where BH took the train to pay his respects. One or two fine days followed the hot and humid conditions, and, on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 1892, a telegram was received by BH informing him of Mr Bevington's death at 6.45 that day. The funeral was held at Woking Cemetery on August 25<sup>th</sup> 1892.

BH received a wide-ranging missive from Mr Bell, dated Tuesday August 9<sup>th</sup>, in which he told BH that he thought the geological paper was offered too late. He thanked BH for the specimens [eoliths] some of which were just what he wanted but telling BH that he also wanted 'some of the rolled flints pure and simple' suggesting that these were 'remarkable and I think geologically convincing of the age of the drift'. He tells BH that he has sent a copy of the paper and hopes that he will approve of the passage that mentions him. He informs BH that he gave away one of the specimens to a deserving man named Mr Roth, the author of a 'good book about the Tasmanians'. The tools of the Tasmanians he thought resembled the 'old olds'. He suggests BH take the paper to Mr Bevington to read one day. BH has highlighted this as he, but not Bell, was aware of Mr Bevington's demise.

P 20. Letter received from Mr. Bell, BA Edinburgh 10<sup>th</sup> August 1882. In it is an account of what happened at the meeting of the geological section of the British Association meeting. Bell admits his ignorance of geology. Notes the refusal of Professor Hughes to accept one of the 'old olds' as an artefact though others, such as Mr Blake and Professor Rupert Jones spoke up in its defence. Bell says that Hughes was influenced by the common occurrence of fractured pebbles in Scotland which resemble palaeoliths but which were naturally produced. Notes that Professor Geikie was unable to attend owing to illness. Bell wrote asking to see Geikie. Below is a letter recounting a day spent both visiting Geikie and also walking in the Dumfriesshire Hills with Professor Lapworth. Concludes on p 21 with a description of Graptolites and other Silurian phenomena encountered whilst they were out. A small sketch of an anticline.

P. 21 Letter from AM Bell in Edinburgh dated August 16<sup>th</sup> 1892. In it he tells BH of his dinner with Professor Geikie. He pays homage to BH and eoliths with a Six-line verse, in the style of an advert:

'The real shining  
Try Harrison's Old Olds  
Nothing like them  
Genuine and lasting  
The real article for honest wear'

Letter concludes.

Another letter from Bell in Edinburgh, dated August 14<sup>th</sup> in which he again tells BH about the time he spent with Professor Geikie. He says he took along a 'heavy bag of Harrison's Original' [eoliths] which, following dinner with Geikie and his wife, they studied. Bell drew sections to show the geological origin of the stones. Geikie was quite impressed and accepted that some of them were artefacts. They discussed the 'five ice ages, or rather the five intense periods in the great ice age'. After this session they repaired to the drawing room where Bell showed Mrs Geikie the eoliths. Geikie assured Bell of the value of his collection of eoliths and BH's research. Bell regarded this encounter as important. A sketch of an anticline in these hills.

Another letter from Bell to BH dated 16<sup>th</sup> August 1892, in which he tells BH how much pleasure the receipt the previous evening of his letter (BH's) gave him. He says that the *Daily Chronicle* accurately reported his words [on eoliths]. He thanked BH for reserving some specimens for him and asks BH to date them as a 'collection of BA 1892' and suggests that BH sends them after his return to Oxford, which will not be for a few days since he intends to engage in some geological exploration in the Highlands. This letter concludes on p 22.

P.22. There follows a copy of the geological section report of the British Association as detailed in the *Daily Chronicle*. Bell raised the topic of primeval man and the lithic evidence found embedded in the old gravel bed between the Darent<sup>1</sup> and the Medway, whose workmanship he suggests belongs to 'the highest period of Palaeolithic

---

<sup>1</sup> This is variously spelt as Darenth and Darent throughout BH's work

workmanship'. He believes that these flints show man 'in a high state of culture, and with all the wish to hurry up'. The resistance to eoliths as the work of man by Hughes is recalled, though Mr Kendale made plain his acceptance of their artefactual status. Bell humorously replies that he had 'exhibited these stones in the Anthropological section, where his anthropology was unquestioned but his geology attacked. Now his geology was unquestioned and his anthropology attacked'.

A note from first letter bearing on this... 'Then I was heckled a bit but no one disputed the authenticity of the flints, they disputed their age. All accepted them as Man's handiwork'. This entry concludes on p 23.

P.23. Letter from Bell to BH on learning of Bevington's death. Dated 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1892 and sent from East Morningside House. Says he will not be able to attend the funeral [he was in the north still].

P.24. Another letter from Bell dated 26<sup>th</sup> 1892 re: Bevington's funeral in which he asks BH for details and suggests that, if BH gathers the facts of Bevington's life, they might collaborate in writing a 'notice'.

BH gives an account of Mr Bevington's funeral held at Brookwood cemetery on the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1892. BH caught the 08.23 to Victoria and, though his trip to London was primarily to attend Bevington's funeral, he also visited the Cyclorama of Egypt at Niagara Hall and then strolled to Westminster Abbey where he met Mr Lawler. Whilst in the Abbey they paid their respects to Darwin, whose tomb, it is noted, lay next to that of Herschel. On Westminster Bridge they met a gentleman who had known both Thackeray and his daughter and about whom they briefly conversed recalling fairy tales such as Red Riding Hood, Cinderella and Jack the Giant Killer. They continued across the bridge to the Necropolis Station at Waterloo where they met Mr Lewis.

P.25. The train departed at 12 and the conversation turned to the Thames Valley and its rivers and the geology in which these features lay, as the train they are on passed through them. Notes three rivers that they pass, the Wandle, the Mole and the Wey and adds that all three lay on the sometimes gravel-capped, London clay. Notes that Bevington's funeral was conducted by Rev Bell, Chaplain to the Volunteers. Bevington's grave was lined completely with ferns.

After the ceremony and a little 'refreshing' during which a storm occurred, BH returned in company with Mr. Lewis with whom the geology of a number of places through which they pass, the Hogs Back, the Aldershot and Ockshott Hills on which Lewis had found eoliths in the Southern Drift, is discussed. BH notes that the Basingstoke Canal ran parallel with the railway line for a considerable distance. Comments on the flowers and trees he sees, such as Purple Loosetrife and Willow. He also notes the many lavender fields they pass. On arrival at Waterloo they proceeded to the Kennington Oval where they appear to have lingered for some time as BH records that Kent were playing Surrey there and offers a few comments on the sporting attributes of some of the players. Entry concludes on p 26 where BH recalls that he arrived home at 8.50.

P.26. Visit from a Mr. Hobson who was visiting Mr Hale and who called to see BH's collection. On Sunday August 28<sup>th</sup> 1892 it rained heavily, of which inclement weather

conditions, BH took advantage of to do some sketching. Mr Stopes visited, having heard of BH at the Edinburgh British Association meeting. BH notes that Stopes was widely travelled and says that he walked with him to the [railway] station and on the way back from where he indulged in a little conversation with several of his local friends about 'the beginnings of art and the foot scraper'. After this he made his way home via Crouch.

BH records [another of] Mr Bell's papers to Geological section British Association at Edinburgh, which he notes was not read. He copies the paper in full, which includes mention of the Limpsfield Common gravel beds and surface finds from high on the North Downs (500ft OD). He comments that this find is typical of those artefacts found lower in the river valleys, noting that this fact is of more importance than the beauty of the object.

P.27. The copy of Bell's paper continues from the previous page. Notes that the extensive, elevated gravels lie upon the Lower Greensand stretching to outlying patches of gault clay, a distance of around 600 yards long and about a 100 yards in breadth. He tells the reader that one source of the Darent emerges from this shingle and, like the other waters that enter the Oxted Brook, flow eventually into the Medway. About a mile distant from this shingle spread is the chalk escarpment, which rises to a height of 840 feet OD and between the two is an eroded valley lying along the line of the gault.

The writer points out that there is a difference between the gravel capping the hill tops of the chalk escarpment [the North Downs] and that of Limpsfield Common, suggesting that the high-level gravel must have been deposited in a depressed valley, not on an exposed eminence, arriving at its present place by a gentle hill-slope over what was then the valley space. He, like Professor Prestwich, estimated that such gravels were deposited earlier than those of rivers lying at between 50-100 feet above their present levels. Notes that such gravels had never been part of a river system and belonged to conditions very different from those that then existed [1892]. He therefore concludes that the elevated Limpsfield bed, with others near Ightham where similar implements had been found, was from a chronological time considerably 'anterior to the river-gravels of the Thames or the Cuse'.

He makes the point that, at this very early time, humans were producing sophisticated tools, which state of affairs continued to a period marked by the 50 foot-level valley gravels of the Thames. Quotes Sir John Evans as noting no stylistic differences between implements found at this elevated level and those found in the much lower river valleys.

P.28. Bell's paper continues, moving from the first point regarding Palaeolithic Man, working at his full potential, to the earlier period when stone tools were altogether cruder products of less evolved humans. This period of course is the eolithic as demonstrated by BH's many finds on the plateau of the North Downs at levels of between 500-750 feet OD. He alludes to Professor Geikie's injunction to BH that he should forget about searching the river gravels and instead 'search the heights', a directive which Bell notes that BH faithfully followed.

He tells the reader that these high-level flints, though they bear what he claims are 'common marks of authenticity' are 'neither flaked nor bulbed', which characteristics were then [as now] accepted as the common marks of authenticity. This lack explained why authorities, such as Sir John Evans and Professor Boyd Dawkins, denied their artefactual status.

He notes how worn and ochreous are these high level flints drifts, and suggests that these are features of having travelled far to reach their current situation.

P.29. The next observation in this entry which is continued from the preceding page, is that they are also ochreous in colour as opposed to the white and cream coloured flints, eroded close to where they originated. He adds that it 'is dangerous to infer age from colour as colour may be rapidly acquired in a ferruginous deposit, which however, no longer exists'. Notes that staining is common on both artefacts and unworked flints. He says of the stained flints 'Indeed the brown colour of these flints is remarkable and at once distinguishes them from those around them but unites in one class both the worked and the unworked flints of the rolled and the ochreous drift. They are the relics of an ancient [BH does not complete this sentence] in the largest bed of them that I have seen. They lie in thousands: plainly a natural bed and not possibly artificially induced'. He goes on to ask 'Whence do they come? They lie in patches on the elevated plateaus, isolated and unconnected, but the line of the gravel, the worn ochreous gravel, may be traced by the patches to the face of the existing escarpment. I have pulled out ochreous pebbles at the depth of two feet. This points them to the area now denuded south of the North Downs escarpment'.

The discussion continues with a return to the Limpsfield gravels<sup>2</sup>. Of these BH says he has tried to 'make out a good old age' and, in a cross section, shows the relative heights of the chalk and the lower greensand with a dotted line between the Limpsfield chalk and its putative rising continuation east. Says his aim has been to show the authenticity of eoliths through appeal to reason<sup>3</sup>.

P.30. Notes that Professor Sayce's believes that the authenticity of eoliths is an anthropological question whilst their age is a geological one. Quotes Geikie's injunction to search the heights for the earliest traces of man where the surface will be 'unwasted' unlike the lower levels which are. He says that on the heights will be found drifts with relics deposited from pre-existing higher levels, no longer extant.

---

<sup>2</sup> BH, like Derek Roe (*The Lower and Middle Palaeolithic Periods in Britain*, 1981, p 266. Routledge and Kegan Paul), considered this area to be full of promise as far as ancient stone tools were concerned, and a place that should be explored fully by those concerned with the evolution and lives of our Palaeolithic forebears.

<sup>3</sup> In every collection of eoliths examined by the writer, genuine palaeolithic stone tools are to be found. It is possible that these collections were sold as a 'set' or a 'series' by BH to the institution now holding them and, if that is so it probably reflects BH's need (in order to prove the status of eoliths as artefacts) to show an evolutionary connection between eoliths and early palaeolithic stone tools. In those sketch books, held in his archive at Maidstone Museum devoted to eoliths, he includes what he calls 'evolutionary' or 'transitional' types, all of which are clearly genuine Palaeolithic artefacts, often of a thick-butted and relatively crude type.

The question as to surface finds at elevated heights, and finds in situ is discussed and of the examples used by the writer, it is noted that he is unable to say that they come from as deep as five feet in the 'solid shingle' as he did of the Limpsfield examples, though those from the red clay topping the chalk, may have come from as deep as two feet. Such finds led Professor Dawkins to say that they had been taken up there and left by 'River valley Man', contested of course by the writer who confidently asserts that such surface finds are as old as those from deeper levels on the heights.

Using the analogy of the large rocks that make up Arthur's Seat, a large stone lying denuded on the surface, the age of which is confidently agreed it is suggested, that the age of the smaller stones, such as the high level plateau drifts, which also lie denuded on the surface, should not be disputed.

P.31. Continues to speculate about the level of denudation at Limpsfield where the level of the Lower Greensand rocks is about 500 whilst that of the chalk is about 850, meaning that about 400 feet of rock has been eroded since the times described by Bell in this paper.

Bell believed that his arguments will have illuminated past geological phenomena and suggests that they provide the evidence of geological succession, sought by Sir John Evans 20 years ago, which explained how the river valleys, the high level gravels and the very highest drifts, were formed.

Copy of a letter from Henry Stopes dated September 1<sup>st</sup> 1892 in which he discusses two of his published papers sent with the letter for BH's perusal. He thanked BH for the hospitality he received on his last visit. He expressed an interest in the collection and looks forward to a day in the field with BH.

P.32. Letter from the previous page continues. Stopes hopes that BH will have it in his power to throw light on the subject [human antiquity] and speculates as to the time between the deposition of the clay with flints capping the Downs and the age at which the underlying chalk was first deposited. Considers that the Ightham district will enable light to be shed on the relative ages of the deposits, especially as in some there is evidence of human occupation, as is testified by BH's collection. He refers to the work as that of 'pre-glacial man' and as such 'no scientific man who is truly scientific could reject'. Stopes encourages BH, saying 'I think you have done exceedingly good work in the past, I believe you will do still better work hereafter'.

A printed article by Edward Lovett dated March 1886, entitled 'Carnelian Arrow Points from Arabia'.

P.33. A newspaper obituary [publication untitled] of James Buckingham Bevington's life.<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> James Buckingham Bevington was a greatly beloved friend of BH, and a dedicated eolithophile. He was relatively well-off, having been a successful businessman with a leather-working operation inherited from his father, and based in Bermondsey and Southwark. After retirement he settled in Sevenoaks. He came from a family of Quakers. He married Eliza Knox, from County Derry, Ireland, who pre-deceased him by some 19 years and whom he joined once more in death. His double-barrelled name

P.34. On Thursday September 15<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH set out for Knockholt at 8.15. There follows an account of a field trip with Mr. Hale on what started out as a foggy day. Once at higher levels however, the sun shone. As was his habit, BH showed an interest in all that he saw, including architecture. Mostly though it is the Pleistocene geology that is described en route. They start in earnest at Sevenoaks from where they make their way to Dunton Green where they inspect the church, which BH thought to be well-proportioned. The font in this [newly-built church] was a gift from Mrs Hale of Fawke. The church is noted to be standing on a terrace of the Chevening, or Dunton Green gravel and overlooks the Darent Valley (Holmsdale). He comments: 'The outliers of high-level gravel valley gravel occurring on the spurs above Sundridge and onwards to Westerham could be well-noted as well as the position of the non-existing gravels swept away by some force in the past'. They stopped for a chat at the Polehill Arms where they talked about the trap [in which they were undoubtedly travelling]. The coachman drove to the Three Horse Shoes whilst BH and Hale walked along the recently-made military road which started below, and to the west of the Polhill Arms. They noted the piles of flints, excavated from the drift beds at the side of the road, noting no ochreous stones in any of the piles. On reaching the fruit plantation however, they saw some likely stones which had been incorporated into the road metalling and which appeared to have come from the 'trail down the slope'. There they turned towards the crest but the field west of Great Peckham Wood was covered with clover. They did however find a few bits of flint among the raspberries, though none was very convincing. BH notes one 'double-curved sample' [this typology refers to an eolith], which contrasted with the others found and which he describes as 'merely trimmed ochreous stones'. They saw no evidence of the Southern Drift that day. They were joined at this point by a man called Philip Wells who joined in their search and promised to keep a sharp look-out on any future walk. He regaled them with tales of his time in America.

P. 35. The account from the previous page continues. They called on the schoolmaster with the museum [mentioned in the account of BH's visit to Downe House as detailed in this volume]. BH describes some of the lighting mechanisms, collected by the teacher as well as the chemical formula for Reckitt's blue bag. They disliked Mr Vavaseu's 'unsightly building' at which point they observed the workmen returning from their dinner break. Here they turned to their left and slightly to the south of Beeches [wood] making their way to the crest where they ate rolls for their lunch. They could see as far as Lenham [to the east] and Leith Hill [to the west]. They observed the Wealden anticline, through the narrow gaps in the greensand, as far as Ide Hill and west of Toys Hill. BH thought this view to be less striking than that from Wrotham.

Their return was via Shoreham in the trap. They stopped to look at Shoreham Church where they went up into the rood loft, standing on top of the screen to view the church. They took tea with Mrs Bullen on the lawn where it was so quiet and secluded that BH had difficulty believing that they were only a yard or two from the main road. They reached Tubs Hill in Sevenoaks at 6.30 and BH arrived home at 7.30. They thought the day had been '...truly delightful'.

---

came from the adoption of his mother's surname of Buckingham. His son, a Colonel in a Surrey regiment, inherited his business.

P.36. On Tuesday September 16<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH received a young geologist from Westminster, a friend of Mr. Bullen. On Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> 1892. BH, Professor Prestwich, Rev Bullen and Mr. Abbott met at the fissure at 4.15, examining the spring by the upper millpond, at Basted Mill after which they all went to BH's garret to examine the 'old olds' and take tea. The following day, on Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> 1892 a white frost was followed by a bright day which BH spent re-grouping implements. Notes some fossil wood from the tertiary deposits Meopham, brought by John Holman.

P. 36. Mr and Mrs Anning arrived at 3.00 p.m. having walked from Malling to see BH. He took them to Furze Field, Fane Hill and Ives Rampart after which they returned home.

On Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> 1892, after a day at home, BH walked around the fissure where he noted a 'slight sprinkling of yellow flint on the plain above'. On Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> 1892, following a wet morning BH walked to Hadlow, examining the gravel at Dunks Green en route, where he noted much ochreous flint, though nothing that was worked. He continued on to Goose Green, which at that time had been largely excavated. Despite close observation of the stone heaps he found no 'old old's'

A printed version a poem entitled 'A Wet Sunday' concludes this entry.

P. 37. A monograph to and photograph of James Buckingham Bevington taken from *The Leather Trades Circular Review* of September 8<sup>th</sup> 1892.

P.38. On Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH met Mr Creighton and four friends at Tubs Hill, on what is described as a 'stormy day'. They walk to Knole, White hart Hill, Fawke and Bitchet after which they call on Mr. Hale. At Merriman's they note many 'Neo flakes' [these are more likely to be Mesolithic: AM]. After lunch Isles accompanied them almost as far as Seal where BH called in on Miss Collins with whom he had a 'long chat'.

A four-line quote from an unnamed poem about the frantic lust of a chief whose fate is to repent in 'blood and slaughter'

On Thursday October 13<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH set out on a stormy day for Shoreham and Darent Hulme where he met with Sir Joseph Prestwich, and Sir John Evans whose carriage was at the door. BH hastily arranged his specimens and placed them before Sir John. Lady Evens, who was described as 'a fellow student', was introduced to BH. He then made his way to Stone House where he dined with Mrs Day. Met the rest of party at 19<sup>th</sup> milestone. He found one worked flint on a stoneheap then more in Sepham Heath Lane and Morants Court Hill. After tea with Mr Bullen, and following a torrential downpour, he arrived home at 7.00 p.m..

Another line or two of Victorian morality, the source of which BH does not reveal. Another two lines of moral injunctions, the source of which is not clear.

Two lines about Sir John Evans, as a representative of the Royal Society and who attended a funeral in the Shoreham locality [which probably accounted for his presence at Sir Joseph Prestwich's home].

P.39. On October 16<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH, in company with Mr. Druery<sup>5</sup> and Ted, make a trip to Terry's Lodge. They visited Mr Evelyn to examine his stones after they make their way to the Horse and Groom. They found many spots close to the main road as they walked home via New House Farm, in which grew *Pteris aquilina*.

On Monday October 17<sup>th</sup> 1892 A letter from Miss Julian Dyke of Sittingbourne is mentioned in connection with a visit to Glover's house on October 19<sup>th</sup>. and which continues on opposing page and in which she expresses gladness that she asked to see 'your treasures'. [this letter must have been to BH thanking him for a glimpse of his collection] Mr James introduced Miss Dyke and her sister to BH..

Refers to an extract from Grant Allen's letter to Mr Anning, dated September 23<sup>rd</sup> 1892. It says: 'From what I have read, they seem to be of immense importance, and will probably indicate for us the sort of evidence we may finally expect to obtain of the existence of Tertiary man or his predecessor'.

P.40. Death of Lord Tennyson noted as being at 1.15am on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1892. Followed by one of his poems about death. Newspaper clipping about his death.

BH's account of a walk to Exedown and Terry's Lodge. The weather, as is BH's usual practice, is described, rather lyrically. Continues in lyric mode to describe the full moon and the calm of the night. BH feels it a fitting conclusion to the day, which saw the passing of Tennyson, who is described as 'our sweet singer'.

P.42. [BH has jumped from 40 to 42] On a fine, fresh day BH walked to Ash where he first breakfasted with Mr. Evelyn and then went on to several places to make 'several interesting finds'. These consisted of a mixture of palaeolithic stone tools, some flakes and some eoliths from the north Ash pebble beds. The south Ash site was covered in clover. The four palaeoliths came from from Ash Place.

On Sunday October 23<sup>rd</sup> 1892 BH went out at 8.00 a.m. with Ted and Ernest to Ash, the low site 520 feet OD, where they made many finds, after which they went to Plaxdale Green which yielded many eoliths. After a one liner, 'Rev Bullen on Evans and Miocene flints', BH moves on to say 'I saw the Professor last night, Sir John is unconvinced'. Under this is a snippet about the 'Prof' who 'found in the remains of the Brussels Anthro Congress 1872, a Miocene implement from a place near Lisbon, 'Very rude and of the Plateau type'.

P. 42. [the second p.42] A list of the numbers of the implements possibly sent to Sir John Evans. They are:

Double Curved Scrapers:

53	W.W. Yoke
1344	Kingsdown worn
92	Ash 520 (OD)
95	Ash 520

---

<sup>5</sup> This is Mr Druery, the famous 19<sup>th</sup> century pteridologist and writer on the topic of ferns, of Shaa Road, Acton W3.

280 Morant's Court Hill  
 99 West Yoke, Ash  
 1337 Kingsdown  
 133 W. Yoke  
 32 West Yoke  
 722 S. Ash  
 736 Kingsdown

Hollow scrapers: 1521,57, 70,66,547,276,1259,654,656,  
 Broad Crook point. 345,118,6,136,481,703,  
 Pointed form: 558,586,623,393,1317,554  
 Triangular: 102,49, 393,554  
 ?Accepted and rare: 557,1152,1153,1155,572,534,574

P.43. The list continues:

Broad crook point with hollow: 356,27,289,98,65,1582,872,1474,280,1518

Combination tools: 211,523,83

Turner's Oak, found last week. 213, unfinished, left handed.

Hollow scrapers various or drawshaves:

523,1570,1572,540,1156,539,1157,1166,314,364,292,1172,240,203,525,245,684,193,  
 1538,195. One Ash last week, unnumbered.

To illustrate Bell's work 1599,126,416-

1 S. Ash unnumbered –prob

1 Ash ? Possible

1 Terry's Lodge West ? Possible

Canterbury specimen: 464 (won't do) Bower Lane unnumbered 735 (won't do) 1258  
 (may do) 14 (won't do) 544 (may do) 412 (will do) 575 (may do) 1449 (may do)  
 Plaxdale Fm and Ash 520 (won't do) also Bower Lane.

A loose newspaper clipping re: the BA meeting in Rochester with a visit to the Master of the Clockworker's company. Content largely concerns Roach Smith and Roman antiquity.

A Letter to Sir John Evans dated October 26<sup>th</sup> 1892, which BH records was written at 4.30 a.m.:

'Sir, late last night I received a letter from Prof Prestwich stating that he had forwarded my specimens per rail, at the same time gently hinting that I had not sent the most convincing examples. I may mention at the time these were hastily packed I was very busy, my wife detained in London, seeking suitable apartments for my son, who has gone to the India office. The time selected for your visit is a busy season; viz Michaelmas, hence I was forced to hurriedly pack a representative lot – mark you, all were laid out in trays ready, hoping a visit might be made to Ightham. As late as Wednesday night I found there was no hope of a visit I determined to go over and again hurriedly packed a few specimens likely to prove more convincing.

P.44. I ... to start at 8.15 to be driven over the hills, hence it was sharp work. At the commencement of this I would wish to disclaim ought like a desire to set up a theory. At the utmost I simply ask leave to lay before you evidence from notes and observations which has occupied my attention for many years. I lay the facts before you as a humble seeker after truth, and not as one by whom truth has already been discerned. To my mind there seems to be some show of reason in what will be advanced. That however will be for you to decide.

I may state first that on no occasion of our meeting - in my early stage 1881- when it would have been premature – in 1883 when I visited Nash Mills – in 86 when you next visited Ightham – in 88 when we went to the Wealden area – and again this last visit – on each occasion I never had a single chance of putting the question direct as to Man's oldest remains.

In the second instance I was handicapped by Mr Monckton's presence, next by short time and Professor Seeley – later by the presence of Mr. Topley and Professor Prestwich and last by lack of convenient time and opportunity and unwillingness to be thought desirous to air my own opinions.

However, the time has come. "When I must speak what wisdom would conceal and truths invidious to the great reveal. Bold is the task when subjects grown too wise instruct a monarch where his error lies".

The Wealden gravel has been a question about which I have been curious since my schoolboy days when as a lad I accompanied my brother and my schoolmaster to Aylesford gravel pit Sandling so long since as prior to 1852 or 52.

P.45. Presently I had a desire to thoroughly traverse the district and to show that no [efforts] were spared in getting a general grasp of the wonderful area. I copy from my diary: " October 10<sup>th</sup> 1875. Arose at 3 very bright morning – started at 4 – drove to Tonbridge 5.30 walked to the new station Tunbridge Wells (1 Hour) started at 7.9 arrived at Lewes at 8.10 walked via race course to Mount Harry and Black Cap and returned by the edge of the escarpment to the Offham Road across the bridge to Cliffe up the Coombe from there past the canons to Mount Caburn and back down Oxteddle bottom to Cliffe. Dined at Bear 2.30. Hired a trap with a first-rate horse and pleasant driver – driven through Uckfield to Crowborough. ... to Tonbridge Wells 8.38 Home 10.30.

This merely to show how handicapped for time by business and a young family I had perforce to get a hurried grasp If what I desired, viz a run from the South Downs to North [he means the South Downs to the North Downs here] feasting and observing by the way.

Presently after a long apprenticeship in the Neolithic stage I became a diligent student of the Palaeolithic – then having acquired so many excellent examples of Palaeolithic skill I asked myself the question: do these represent man's first essay's? if not, where are such to be found in my area? (if these represent the copperplate like writing, where may I expect to find the shocks, potholes and humps of the initial stage). Looking at my surroundings on the chalk Plateau I

had an idea that the unwasted plain of the chalk would shew the series and therefore, (in my widowerhood 1878) went purposely to examine the stained gravel near Ash – where years before in my courting days (1863 to 1867) I had noted ochreous stones, certainly worn and – apparently worked. I collected spoil and wrote to Mr. Worthington Smith stating I had found what seemed like missing link specimens.

P.46. Some of these rude, misshapen stones were put among my first series submitted to you. I had arranged on table and to note the effect pretended to be scraping my shoes outside but really watching. You pounced upon my old Fane Hill specimen like a hawk upon a bird. Presently taking up one of the rudes you handled and eyed and placed down- again you took up and examined and presently laid down shaking your head. I thought I was ruled out but later on felt convinced my first impression was right so fetched in those rudes from the spoil heap and now put in the witness box as evidence.

As to the geological question and position that I learn in our masters hands – only that in collecting so many I became convinced that they might be grouped and that some of each of these groups were worn in such a way some factor to do this must be granted. Hence it has been a gradual growth – not a hurried rush to conclusions not justified by collective fact.

To illustrate permit me to tell you a tale: An Englishman who had resided in Scotland for some years came back with a decided scotch accent. Of this he was proud and by many mistaken for a genuine Scot. Some time after he was in company with an old Northumbrian and one present alluded to him as a scotchman. The canny one replied “nae man he’s no scot, he’s just an improved Englishman”. Of my stones it may be said they are an improvement on nature – three fourths by heathen nature and her faces and the remainder by man.

P.47. If however this work represents man (certainly Palaeolithic) then I am justified in rescuing this submerged fourth and bringing forth to take their right place. Apologising for this lengthy explanation but I am moved to do so. I remain Sir John, yours respectfully BH. PS I now go to bed again – October 27<sup>th</sup>. Implements sent off this day.’

*Geological Annals* report to revise October 28<sup>th</sup> 1892. ‘295 Harrison B. Report of the committee and appointed to carry on excavations at Oldbury Hill near Ightham, in order to ascertain the existence or otherwise of Rock Shelters at this spot. *Geological Magazine* December 1<sup>st</sup> Vol 111 P254 Read at British Association in August 1891. ‘After some ineffectual attempts, the slope of the spur of Mount Pleasant was found by our workmen to yield over 49 well finished Palaeolithic implements and 648 waste flakes some so small as to lead to the supposition that there was a workshop, and the adjacent rock the frontage of a rock shelter.

‘292 Harrison B...’ this condenses BH’s article ‘On certain Rude Implements from the North Downs’ which he wrote as an addition to Sir JP’s paper.

P. 48. A letter from the editor of the *Annals of British Geology* to BH asking for any corrections to be sent to Mr J.T. Blake. Copy of a letter from Sir John Evans (not in

BH's (usual) handwriting, which concludes on p 49. The sentiment expressed is negative as far as eoliths are concerned and this despite BH's last (middle of the night) appeal and the many specimens with which he inundated Sir John. Evans acknowledges that some of the stones may have been used as manuports, but declines to support the idea of crude workmanship having played a part in their shaping. He also casts doubt on Kent, and 'a country with a climate such as ours' as the [or a] cradle of mankind. Also suggests that it is impossible to assign any purpose to these flints. Concludes on p.49 where Sir John says 'I am doubtful as to the desirability of complicating the question with a second race of men and a set of implements of extremely questionable character- I admire your perseverance and am only sorry that I cannot go further in accepting your evidence'.

P. 49. BH has copied an extract from the American Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology in which Sir John Evans comments on Chellean implements suggesting that it is useless to speculate on what purpose they might have served. This has of course been done to highlight the same sentiment that he expressed in the forgoing letter about eoliths.

A diary entry for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 1892 detailing how BH, in company with Ted, Agnes and another person, walked to Oldbury and Fishponds. Comments on the mild, spring-like weather and notes that the autumn tints were at their best. Mentions Henslow's new book, *How Flowers are Made*.

On October 30<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH replies to Sir John Evan's last letter. He says:

'... Thank you heartily for your long and interesting letter.

Now that you have granted me "Trafalgar Square" I am likely to be a law-abiding, peaceable citizen but to appear to be classed as a rabid ... sparked me to become an impossible irritant.

Then as I understand it. Nash Mills will continue to be the Palaeolithic house of peers whilst my humble abode will properly represent the people.

P.50. You happy with the stones of your choice and costly ware – I content with my humble "Wrotham" and accumulating series truly representing the everyday wants of the people in the long, long agos.

Truly we have each a Palaeolithic Paradise, you with evidence from a range over the world. I with a little world, the Thames river full of interest. Perhaps some day you may not be jealous of the elevation of distinguished commoners to sit in the upper house.

I have however a lot of work to do yet in ... and redistribution, as fresh facts and new lights appear daily. I cannot well refrain from quoting an incident to illustrate my aim and how it was received by a specialist in another line.

By desire of Professor Prestwich in October 1889 I took him to Rochester in order to observe and report on the gravel capping in Cobham Park when preparing his Westleton bed paper (of which I know naught). In passing through

Strood I could not but call on Roach Smith having been invited to do so for many years. The reception was hearty and I was ushered into his den a perfect Babel of books, pipes and pamphlets. Presently he said “well Harrison it is a long time since you called how have you been getting on in the meantime, have you made any fresh discoveries?” I replied by saying –“very successfully” and proceeded to speak of my work- No sooner had I mentioned the word prehistoric than he burst forth like a second Carlyle and fairly trampled on me. “Of no interest whatever, prove nothing, in fact Prehistoric Archaeology is played out my old friend Boucher de Perthes proved all that can be proved” and so on. I left the dear old Roman in his paradise and trotted onwards to Cobham heights and soon found, which completely erased the slight from my thoughts.

P.51. This by the way to show all has not been sunshine. Or that thorns never mixed with the flowers that fortune had strewn in my way. With renewed thanks. I remain Sir John, Yours respectfully BH. PS before your letter came I had packed a box to send per parcel post. I determined to send and possibly you may not object that Aylesford minimus may occupy a seat amid his bigger and non pretentious brethren.

The Ashites I shall need but I hope some day Ash will be better represented in the house of Peers’.

Scribbled through is the following paragraph, which perhaps BH erased from his original letter to Sir John Evans: ‘I may mention that it is not for the sake of man collecting I am principled to keep on walking exercises with an object makes a new man of me and for health’s sake I mean to keep on as long as it is beneficial’.

Copy of a letter from Sir John Evans to BH dated November 1<sup>st</sup> 1892:

‘Thanks for your two letters and for the sight of the three specimens which I am returning. That from Aylesford is interesting both from its extreme rudeness and its deep staining – not improbably it rested at two or three higher levels for a time on its way to where you found it. Ash 519 has lost nearly the whole of one of its faces since it was first made and in that respect resembles my specimen from Currie Wood [crossed out and ‘farm’ substituted]. No 459 I accept as worked but it is singularly rude. I have not heard from Aylesford for a very long time. Your anecdote about Roach Smith is characteristic of him. He was essentially a lover of Roman antiquities and cared but little for other ages. I am yours very truly. J. Evans.

P.51. An entry for Friday November 4<sup>th</sup> 1892 informs the reader that Mr Abbott called at 11 and took 50 rude implements to exhibit at the Geologists Association meeting. BH accompanied Abbott to Sevenoaks and then went to Marle Wood. Took the train home. It started to rain which state continued all night.

An entry for Sunday November 6<sup>th</sup> tells the reader that it was wet and that BH spent time sketching specimens from the crest. Later he went with Willie Jenkin to Mr Hale’s where they inspected implements. Then on to High Cross to inspect a deep ditch running through Dalison’s Wood which BH thought was the old conduit course for conveying the water from the pump house to Fairlawn.

A Short account of Evans' Presidential address to the Geological Society for 1876 on the Red Clay overlying chalk. Taken from p 99 he says': 'It has long been known that many, if not most of the beds of red clay overlying the chalk and various limestone formations were the insoluble residue of the rock left near the surface after the calcareous portions had been dissolved away by the action of water charged with carbonic acid. It has also been noted that those argillaceous beds were more fully developed in some places than in others'.

Continues with a short account of the climate in Miocene times, much warmer in the arctic, though earlier periods had enjoyed an even warmer climate at such high latitudes. This is followed by an account of arctic flora, which continues to p 53.

P.53. Continues from previous page. BH lists three points:

- '1. That for vegetation such as described there must, according to all analogy, have been a greater aggregate amount of summer heat supplied than is now due to such high latitudes'
- '2. There must have been a far less degree of winter cold than is in any way compatible with the position on the globe'
- '3. That in all probability the amount of redistribution of light which is at present prevail[s] within the Arctic Circle are not such as would suffice for the life of the trees'

An undated exegesis, entitled 'A Good Illustration' on geological time, culled from an unacknowledged source. These thoughts offer an interesting and insightful consideration of deep time:

'Just as with our ordinary reckoning of time, we divide our day not only into the larger and more natural periods of morning, noon, afternoon and evening, but also in the more artificial subdivisions of hours, minutes and seconds, so with Primary, Secondary, Tertiary and Quaternary periods, or by whatever other names we may call them – and then subdivide these into various minor periods represented by the different formations. We shall, I think eventually more fully recognise that as the case with the periods of the day, each of the longer geological periods follows each other without any actual break or boundary, and that the minor subdivisions are like the chimes on the clock useful and conventional rather than absolutely fixed by any general cause of nature.

Had not the ancient Assyrians been sufficiently civilized to have got beyond the decimal system, we might now have had 10 hours in our day and a hundred minutes in our hour'.

A quote from Prestwich November 10<sup>th</sup> 1892. '... you cannot force the position. Have faith in time and right and wait the verdict of the majority'.

BH quotes W.L Abbott, undated, on the exhibition of his 'series' for the Geologists Association [Meeting] at University College. Small ink sketch of what appears to be a pear-shaped palaeolith. He says:

'I arrange my specimens in a series from neoliths through palaeoliths to plateau, and...

P.54. Continuation of article from previous page:

'... labelled them "series of implements showing the evolution of well-known neoliths forms to the almost unknown plateau forms. For 2 ½ hours did I preach as hard as I could in a large grand like I had round me the whole of the evening and my mind fixed upon what I was saying. It is impossible for me to estimate whether anyone left the room unconverted. One stern opponent came up and said "I am afraid I haven't much faith in these things". "Then I'm sorry for you" said I "not for your want of faith but because you have [not] got any at all.

Faith and prejudice have nothing to do with facts". I then took him through No 1 series that I had arranged and when I got him to the last one I said "have you got any faith now?" I hope not' he replied "I don't think I have but what is more to the point I have no doubt." [EH has written below this, that person was the late Professor Blake]. I told you I think the secretary met me at the museum and ridiculed the idea of them, an opinion which his friends evidently shared, for after seeing me give one demonstration, he rushed off into the crowd and got his intended, Miss Robinson, the daughter of the great Yorkshire implement collector, and introduced her asked if I would kindly go through it again what he had heard. [AM: this is a verbatim transcription and the English does not always make complete sense]. But she ran her eye along the row (I had the whole table to myself) and replied "not much evolution there" and picking one up looked earnestly into my face and said "surely no one has doubted this being an implement".

Professor Blake also asked me to recapitulate for the benefit of his daughter who was about as shrewd as her father, and adopted a line of reasoning which was new and critical which upon being applied to the first specimen she picked up gave us one more secure.

As I said before I cannot say that no one left the room unconverted, but a large quantity volunteered themselves champions for them and were holding forth over them until it was a perfect babel. Naturally in the face...

P.55. of such advocates several whom I am sure have called the G.O.M [Grand Old Man](Pr. Prestwich) an old ..... swore like a Peter that they had always known them to be implements.

One man who was to a large extent responsible for the article in *Natural Science* came up and caught hold of him turned over my label and took him along the row till he had passed a number of plateaux through his hand. I then asked him what he thought of the one he had in his hand, to which he replied "oh that's a fine implement and no mistake but what about the plateau things? Well nothing after that, only the last dozen or so that you have so admired are the things on behalf of which you have called the G.O.M. well – I won't say what –" (to which the G.O.M. party responded, "shame, shame"). Yes but I didn't know they were like this. What I heard about them is altogether different.

P. 55. Mr Whittaker came and picked up one of my big Barton specimens, which he greatly admired, saying he was amazed that anything like that had ever been found there. I then passed several through his hand until he got a plateau specimen. "what do you think of that? Oh that's also very fine. Just so, this is one of these things which, without seeing you said you didn't believe in, but when you get it into your hand you admire it. It just shows you what prejudice can do". I subsequently made him admit that he knew nothing at all about the deposit and that it was 25 years since he had seen it. I went to the G.O.M. (Pr. Prestwich) yesterday with my Hastings things. He was much charmed and wants to apply for a grant for me to work the fissures thoroughly.

You saw *Natural Science*. Mr Worthington Smith regards the Plateaux unfavourably. How many of them has he seen? Faithfully yours, WJ Lewis Abbott'.

P.56. A letter from Mr Spurrell, dated November 10<sup>th</sup> 1892:

'Dear Sir, It is very pleasant to see your great activity, still working where so much is to be done. There is one thing which I want you to consider for me. I am one of those who by no means pass by or ignore what lies in the way of our enquiry and yet I find that I am in some difficulty about the oldest paleos of your list – besides I am unable to say for the moment that they are not implements. Now I am repeatedly asked my opinion on the matter and have promised (I regret to say) several lectures or papers on the subject (but not till next year of course).

Now I wish to exhibit some of these implements and as it would be obviously unfair for me to exhibit those I had found myself and say they were yours or Mr. Prestwich's identification as implements. I would much like, if you can do so for you to make a small selection of good samples such as you would stake your reputation on, of these oldest ones; not the flaked or the river type. I wish to shew these and say that I had them from you with your mark on them. You see it is in the matter of science and fairness.

I should be pleased if you could fall in with this and I shall be pleased also if I can as is only fair, pay you some remuneration for the labours you have long undertaken – I am convinced that though you might grudge losing any from your lot that such an arrangement will only add to the interest of those you have in such abundance. I feel that if such cannot be done I am put in a false position for I should have to find my opinion against or say little about you. If I did not care for you personally – that would suit but I cannot knock your theory to nothing, but I do care and am pleased at our long association and the accuracy and fairness of the investigation. Yours Faithfully, FCJ Spurrell'.

Written in the inner margin of the page is a post script: 'At present I am not much better and also have a bad cold but I really hope to get to Ightham where I wish to be.'

P.57. Sunday November 13<sup>th</sup> 1892. BH spent from 6-9 a.m. writing to Professor Prestwich and Mr Bell. At 11 a.m. Mr Stopes appeared on the scene and, after dinner, he, BH and Mr. Stopes and Emily go to the rock shelters, Middle Wood rocks, the

Fishponds, Merriman's and Rose Wood. Stopes caught the 5.18 train home. It rained in the evening and Ted left for St Albans.

Professor Prestwich on Evan's opinion [re: eoliths], dated October 30<sup>th</sup> 1892. 'Sir J Evans was quite clear. He admits that some of the specimens may be worked but the majority he takes to be natural'.

Copy of a letter from Worthington Smith, dated November 10<sup>th</sup> 1892.

'I do not remember reading before of the depressions you mention. They are certainly worthy of note. By dubious tools, I refer only to those without (bulbs), cores of percussion. I get them here with ordinary good implements. If human I take them as Sir John Evans says, to be "casuals". ... human origins. As for the Thenay things I don't believe in their human origin.

I am greatly interested in your note and I wish you would publish some of your facts and thoughts.

I should like to ask you one question. Do you consider my ochreous tools from the hill tops here to be identical in age with yours? And judging by my two sections, do you consider the sharp tools to be equally old?'

Bell notes that Professors Sayce and Rhys are both interested in stone tools and their human workmanship.

P.58. Two lovely old photographs of a sprightly Worthington G. Smith, together with umbrella and dog, pointing out features in one of his excavations. These are both referred to in the following letter.

P. 58. Copy of a letter from WG Smith dated November 13<sup>th</sup> 1892:

'You all the time seem to misunderstand me. If you find fairly good implements amongst your makeshifts - - if only one - it shews that men had reached the regular Pale stage.

With me I get good implements with your rough ones. I did not ask you which you thought the older, the sharp or the ochreous, I asked did you consider my position for ochreous the same as yours (or some of yours). The photos herewith - no good, do not return.

I am pointing with my umbrella to the contorted drift here - with ochreous implements. I am pointing with my hand to my "floor" - where you see little crosses is also the floor in duplicate or triplicate.

I am, also standing on a portion of the floor, sometimes floor has stuff on it and other tools and stuff. WGS 13.11.92'

P.59. J Allen Brown on Sussex Hill top drifts. Dated [by EH ] 21/03/1892. Short piece in which JAB says he hopes to visit East Dean in summer. He notes that the highest Sussex drifts are of 'absorbing interest' and suggests that river deposits flow from the

original high Wealden Anticline. He says that the card [sent by BH but probably drawn by Willie Tomkins, BH's nephew] is 'very pretty and the figures nicely drawn'. He promises not to forget about Willie Tomkins whenever the opportunity arises.'

Extract from a letter from Rev. Bullen dated October 22<sup>nd</sup> 1892. The Professor [? Bourgeois] is said to have found a Miocene implement from Lisbon, very like the plateau type, in the memoirs of the 1872 Brussels Congress.

A footnote from *Man and the Glacial Period* in which it is noted that the figures had been copied from Gaudry, who borrowed them and wrote an article about them.

Extract from Falconer's 'Early Man' copied from Payne's *Geology for General Readers* P. 231. This continues to P. 60. In it the writer suggests that earliest man did not emerge from northern latitudes of Europe. But rather from 'more favoured regions.

A note on the occurrence of human bones in the river valley's of the Nile, Irrawaddy and the Ganges from an 1865 edition of the *Quarterly Journal of Geology*. From p 233 of this journal and possibly the same article cited above, the writer urges that where archaeological proves the antiquity of man, it should be adopted. The same was true of geological and palaeontological evidence.

P.60. Entry from the previous page concludes here with the suggestion that the inclination to assign dates in years and absolute chronology and location in terms of country, is to be avoided. The writer further suggests that discoveries will almost certainly push the antiquity of man back to the beginning of the Quarternary, or even the Tertiary or post-Tertiary geological systems.

Page unnumbered. An original letter from Worthington G. Smith dated 10<sup>th</sup> November 1892:

'My Dear Sir, I will send you a reprint of the *Natural Science* article as soon as I get some.

I do not remember reading before of the "depressions" you mention, they are certainly worthy of note. By "dubious" tools I refer only to those without cones of percussion and with assumed work at the edges – to me with ordinary good imps – if human, I take them, as Sir John Evans says, to be casuals and have human origins – as for the Thenay things, I don't believe in their human origin.

I am greatly interested in your note. I wish you would publish some of your facts and thoughts. I should like to ask you one question; do you consider my ochreous tools from the hilltops here to be identical in age with yours? And judging by my 2 sections, do you consider the sharp tools to be equally old? I hope you are well. Yours Faithfully WG Smith. Part of this letter was copied by BH and is included on p 57

A second original letter from WGS to BH on the facing page was written three days later on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1892 and was copied by BH alongside the photographs on p 58 'If you find fairly good imps among your makeshifts – if only one – it shows the men had reached the regular Pale stage. With me I get good imps with your rough

ones. I did not ask you which you thought the older, the sharp or ochreous, I asked did you consider my position for ochreous imps the same as yours (or some of yours). Two photos herewith – no good, do not return.

I am pointing with my umbrella to the contorted drift here – with ochreous imps.

I am pointing with my hand to my “floor” – where you see little crosses is also the “floor” in duplicate or triplicate. I am also standing on a portion of the floor – sometimes floor has stuff on it and other tools or stuff”.

P.61. Copy of part of a letter from Sir Joseph Prestwich dated November 15<sup>th</sup> 1892 re: BH’s collection and Sir Joseph Prestwich’s opinion of it. In it he tells BH that his collection stands on its own merits. He tells BH there will always be differences of opinion and that all he has to say is the Sir John Evans accepts some specimens whilst rejecting others and then leave everyone to make their own judgment.

Copy of a letter from Henry Stopes dated November 21<sup>st</sup> 1892: ‘ Dear Sir, Would you be good enough to let me know at what price you could let me have a typical series of the old form of implements that are (if I may be permitted) pre-palaeolithic) which you have found in your neighbourhood.

A friend of mine would much like to have the whole collection unless you are committed in any way to the authorities of the British or County Museum. To anyone competent to form an opinion who is not warped in judgment by prejudice or by lower expressions which might require considerable courage to alter, there can be no doubt as to the genuineness of these finds, both as to their human work and the position they geologically occupy.

To anyone like myself working out the older problems connected with the most interesting and important series of questions involved in determining what were the tools used in the first instance in making tools, a series of your flints is really necessary and I write somewhat fully so that you may be good enough to put me on the best basis for securing the best part or if possible the whole of the collection. Should my friend secure them I shall be privileged to work at them without let or hindrance and practically dealing with them almost as fully as if they were my own.

Thanking you much for the fullness of inspection so fully accorded me.

I am. Yours Faithfully, H. Stopes.

P.62. A copy of a letter from Montgomerie Bell dated 17<sup>th</sup> November 1892. ‘My Dear Mr Harrison, Your last note has been very carefully and anxiously considered by me. So far as my opinion goes it is this - If you can make your own future life easy for yourself by selling, then sell your collection. If you cannot do this: I mean if you can only sell at the price that drives the work for six months or a year, do not sell. At what price is it worthwhile to sell you can only say. I should say from £300 to 500. If you have an offer of £500; very unlikely position but not impossible: I should say accept If £400 I should think that £400 will find your wife’s benefit would leave you easy in mind than before. I told you of the Scotch [collector?] for whom Sir A. Mitchell hoped to realise £2000 that has turned out ill. The collection was made in, or near, Aberdeen.

The Aberdeen Town Council offered £1500 for it, which offer was refused by? execs. Public sale the collection is dispersed and only realises £1208 expenses to be deducted. Lesson. Better to sell when a comparatively good offer appears. Please write again. Ever truly yours AM Bell’.

A copy of a letter from WG Smith on the return of some sketch books to BH in which WGS notes the presence of similar stones in his area, none of which he has collected.

P.63. A copy and the original of a letter from G. de. Mortillet to BH dated 5<sup>th</sup> December 1892.

A translation of forgoing letter by Langford, which makes it clear that it is a response to two letters sent by BH in which he has included drawings. These de. M describes as ‘percoirs’. He comments on the difficulty of reading the letters. [another example of BH’s execrable writing making life difficult for those with whom he corresponds]. Apologises to BH for not being able to send the photographs he has requested.

There follows a piece taken from *Man and the Glacial Period* by Bourgeois in which typology (presumably of eoliths) is mentioned.

Page un-numbered but is 63. Extracts from Mr Shrubsole’s paper entitled ‘On Certain Less familiar forms of Palaeolithic Flint Implements from the Gravels at Reading’ Vol XIV November 1884. In it he explains the difficulties he has with the theory of the manner in which the high-level gravels were formed in the Reading area. He finds the views of Professor James Geikie provide a better explanation.

He goes on to describe some of the most interesting forms of implement found there. He quotes Worthington Smith, saying ‘no greater mistake can be made than the putting together of the more highly-finished and perfect implements, if this be done to the exclusion of implements which non the less carry evidence of human fabrication’.

Shrubsole then tells us that he will not reject anything that can throw light on the habits on ancient humans and that he has not thrown away any flint, ‘however slightly it may have been worked’ if, in his judgement, there was any evidence of human agency in its form.

A few lines about clay-with –flints in which the opinions of French geologists are quoted. Such formations are noted to be confined to chalk geology and to never occur in even the oldest Eocene beds, though, if the result of chalk decomposition, it must always rest on these older beds.

P.64. Original letter from WG Smith dated 15<sup>th</sup> December 1892. On the reverse side of which is written ‘64’:

‘Dear Mr Harrison, In reference to ordnance maps. I have no copy of the new inch ordnance with contours. Mr Spurrell has a copy of the sheet and I marked the position in red on his map. I do not know the No. – No doubt he will lend it to you –

I have been working with the six -inch sheets, but when I commenced these sheets had no contours. The six inch is in pub[lished] with the contours now – the jumps of 50 feet are rather large. I do not know that my area is prolific. My spots are restricted and only one or two really productive.

Of course the interest of my find chiefly rests on the shaped implements with so many flakes incapable of replacement – Some flakes being often white or beautifully coloured. I hope you will be able to find something in the stratified deposits you mention. The Caddington position agrees with your diagram. [Under this is a sketch of the Kentish geological features from which such implements have emerged.]

My greatest height is 799.6 [feet OD] – The truth is I cannot find time to visit the places much and several likely places that I can see from the heights I have never visited. I will leave you to settle about the Ver, some of the drainage of these hills now reaches the Lea near the source – other water reaches the great Ouse by a little tributary.

I have seen *Man and the Glacial Period* Adv[ertised] an American book I suppose – Let me know what you think of it.  
I wish you many happy returns of your birthday and hope you will spend a pleasant Christmas hunting for the relics of primaeval savages –

The new six- inch sheet with Caddington showing the contours is Bedfordshire XXX11 SE: Hertfordshire part 2 XV111. Nearly all my places are on this sheet. They are on W & S of Caddington village.

You will see some of Ver at bottom of map in a park – Note, the stream is artificially widened in this park, it reissues at bottom of map as a mere drain.  
Yours Faithfully WGS.

P.65. Sunday December 4<sup>th</sup> was a day of blizzards and record cold. By December 11<sup>th</sup> 1892 the weather had become ‘springlike’ and saw BH out walking to, among other places, the fissure. On Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> 1892 BH had a good day out walking to Drain Farm via St Clere. He observed several ponds full up. He examined the newly-trenched ground by a clump of fir trees to the south-west of Birches where he found a few ochreous eoliths. Home via Birches and Yaldham.

P.66. Part of an original letter from WGS Dated by EH as December 7<sup>th</sup> 1892:

‘...I don’t know whether you have the 6 inch map or not, Maiden Bower is not on the 6 inch sheet I mentioned. Cannot understand about “percoirs” and “piercers”. Am truly sorry that your ideas agree with that of Mortillet, am also truly sorry that you fancy you can see anything in the Thenay things either from the illus(trations) or the descriptions. You see, I do not believe in Tertiary Man but I expect you will be going in for Cretaceous man soon; with a race of lithocephalic or some other hideous nightmare. Do recant and throw away those brickbats or “percoirs” I wish you a pleasant Xmas. WGS.’

Under this in BH's writing and dated 1907 is written '1907 Aug – Good old Worthington did not find – or at least recognise the “golden gravels” beneath his feet. “golden gravels” is your definition’.

An extract from the *Annals of British Geology*, Vol. XIV p 126, on 'The Age, Formation and Successive Drift Stages of the Valley of the Darent: with remarks on the Palaeolithic Implements of the District and the Origin of the Chalk Escarpment' by Joseph Prestwich. Continues to p 70. As well as describing the geology, this paper makes a case for eoliths.<sup>6</sup>

P. 70. Sketch and extract from Lyell's *Elements of Geology* p 79. In the margin is a note about Tertiary formations of doubtful age around Wrotham and Otford.

P.71. Copy of part of a letter from Spurrell to WJ Lewis Abbott, dated January 2<sup>nd</sup> 1893. – 'The news in your letter of the numerous remains you have found in your neighbourhood of Sevenoaks - it was much wanted that somebody in that part should search for them – I never could get anybody to care for them – the most I could get them to do was to look for the surface implements and that of course is worthless scientifically' This is followed by a question mark written by BH.<sup>7</sup>

Extract from an article by [the Rev?] Polehampton entitled 'Problems of the Future', dated 17<sup>th</sup> January 1893 and which deals with spiritual matters. In it he attempts to square the circle and erase the tension between religious and scientific explanations of human existence. Polehampton attempts to equate biblical passages with scientific theories, making links between creationist ideas and evolutionary theories. Continues to p.73.

P. 73. Extracts from a lecture given by Sir John Evans to the British Association meeting of 1890 on the topic of anthropology and human antiquity. He suggests that it is unlikely that the exact cradle of humanity will ever be discovered. He talks of human existence alongside locally or entirely extinct animals and of the glaciation and whether humanity predated this phenomenon, though he suggests, based on the evidence afforded by stone tools in the east of this country, that it post-dated the ice-age. He notes that most scientists agree that the landscape in antiquity was quite different to that which [in his time] existed. He warms to the theme of humanity as emerging in the Quaternary and is dismissive of those who sought to establish a human chronology in the Tertiary. He advises that those who subscribe to this theory should carefully examine the evidence. This entry concludes on p 74.

P.75. Saturday and Sunday January 28<sup>th</sup> 1893. An account of a day out in which BH met Mr Stopes, and Mr Hale. Ted and Mr Stopes visited Rev Scott Temple. Slept at the

---

<sup>6</sup> This paper is one of Sir Joseph Prestwich's works and is readily obtainable in full. For this reason that which BH has copied in this volume is not transcribed here.

<sup>7</sup> How BH got hold of this letter is not made clear but it seems as if Spurrell is casting aspersions upon BH in his reference to 'worthless surface implements' and, he may not even have been aware that BH was the first person to recognize the scientific worth of the fissures and that he, not Lewis Abbott, was the discoverer. Lewis Abbott was slow, to say the least, in acknowledging BH as the driving force behind ensuring that the material from these ice-age features was properly collated and analyzed.

Chequers on Saturday evening. Mr Stopes visited Wrotham via Exedown. He and Mr Stopes visited Mr Hale in the afternoon, spending two hours in 'the garrett'.<sup>8</sup> Mr Stopes was very impressed with the Paleolithic stone tools he saw.

On Sunday February 5<sup>th</sup> 1893 BH again met Stopes, this time at Ash where they lunched at the Swan [still a working pub]. Though they found a palaeolith, it seems probable that they were in search of eoliths. Whatever they were looking for it was a day described by BH as a 'glorious'.

A printed page extolling the virtues of the *Annals of British Geology* by JF Blake, the Editor.

P.76. A copy of part of an article entitled 'Sacrificial Knives' by G. Allen. Not dated.

Copy of an account of a visit by Mr Stopes to Sir John Evans. Dated February 8<sup>th</sup> 1893. 'I had an exceedingly pleasant time with Sir John. I saw all his collection and he was with me the whole time and we had a fine opportunity to discuss many points. He admits some of the things, the split pebble is undoubted. I pointed out to him the similarity of the work and told him I have as much faith in much of it as in that pebble. He is now much shaken and the next time he sees a proper assortment, carefully selected, I have no doubt whatever he will admit they are human workmanship. His collection is indeed superb. Every specimen is fine many of them absolutely perfect.'

A small comment on decomposed pebbles that was to be copied for Sir Joseph Prestwich, dated May 11<sup>th</sup> 1891. It goes: 'Decomposed pebbles are not of infrequent occurrence in various Tertiary deposits? They lose their water of crystallization and some molecular changes take place, which renders them quite soft and friable. Those you have sent me are from Lower Tertiary beds (Woolwich and Reading) from Terry's Lodge crest found'

P.77. An account of a visit to Nash Mills dated August 30<sup>th</sup> 1883. Said to be copied from Notebook 4, this entry continues to p 70. A small ink sketch of a triangular palaeolith. On this trip BH was accompanied by Walter Monckton. [Not reproduced here as it exists in the transcription of Volume 4]. The concluding two remarks, highlighted by BH are pointed: in relation to his find of the Currie Wood implement Sir John says: 'Found by chance, I am always on the look out and lighted on it'. Below this BH has written 'Found by search (Prestwich).'<sup>9</sup> This entry continues to p.79.

---

<sup>8</sup> It is not clear in whose 'garret' they spent time looking at stone tools but it seems most likely that it was BH's.

<sup>9</sup> The meaning of these few short lines is quite clear. BH suggests that Sir John Evans is simply not looking seriously at the evidence presented by eoliths and therefore fails to comprehend their meaning. This entry suggests that his attitude (JE's) is seen by both BH and JP as blinkered and restricted, the evidence stumbled across randomly rather than, as BH had done, which was to set out with deliberation to find evidence to support his theories on the antiquity of man.

P.80. Extract from Whiteley's paper from *Popular Science Review* Volume V111 p 3 1869. He considers the boundaries between each successive stone-age to be sharply defined and readily discernable, except for flint flakes:

'the most perfect of which are assumed to be arrow-heads and flake knives [which] range through all parts of the stone age both in archaeological time and geological position. They are found in the gravel beds of the Somme with the remains of the mammoth, in the caves of the Dordogne with the horns of the reindeer and in buried mounds with instruments of bronze and iron. The flakes appear to increase in number as they near us in time: 30,000 being found in one Belgian cave associated with human bones. But through all this long period there is no recognisable attempt at superior finishing. These are of the same type, fracture and rudeness of form throughout. Are those flint flake implements made by man? Are the refuse chips of ancient manufacture? Or have they been formed by natural causes, and some of them selected and adapted for use by man... Sir Charles Lyell, quoting Mr Evans observes that "there is unity of shape"-

P.81. ... a sharpness about the cutting edges and points which cannot be due to anything but design". Sir John Lubbock says "A flint flake is to the antiquary as sure a trace of man as the footprint in the land was to Robinson Crusoe"... from Cornwall to Norfolk, in Belgium and in Ireland I have obtained sufficient evidence to compel me to adopt the contrary opinion and it will lead to a clear understanding of the subject if this evidence be put as a direct argument to prove their geological position and origin.'

The writer goes on to describe the geology of the north of Ireland and explains the mix of both volcanic and chalk geology which, he maintains, gave rise to an abundance of shattered flint flakes in the valley drifts and around Loch Neagh.

P.82. He notes how evenly distributed are the barbed arrow heads, in contrast to 'ordinary flakes' which he says 'cleave so closely to their paternal home in the chalk' especially from the counties Derry, Antrim and Down. He observes that the chalk in the south of England has not been broken-up by intrusive, igneous rocks. Nor has any denudation equalled that of the north of Ireland. In the chalk from Salisbury Plain, Andover, Rochester and Eastbourne, he collected 'an abundance of flakes' finding them in even greater numbers on the ploughed-up drift in Norfolk.

His attention is then directed to the geology and archaeology of Denmark where he notes that, despite the inhospitable northerly latitude the country occupies, 'flakes and chips are most abundant'. He then considers the long development of chalk in northern France which forms the rim of the Paris Basin which he surveyed in the summer of that year.

P.83. Continues from the previous page. From the watershed that passes near Boulogne, St Pol and Bapaume, and even further eastwards, he found angular flint gravel that had been washed down [presumably from the chalky anticline that once existed over the north of France and across much of southern England] over many places from Belgium to the valley of the Somme and Oise where much of the higher land was covered with deposits of Loess. Here, where turbulent winter streams had exposed lower sections he shattered flints. Spiennes, 3 miles south of Mons, 400 flint

implements were discovered and flakes 'large, thin and broad' were found in a stratum six inches thick and two feet under the surface of the soil.

The Valley of the Somme, St Acheul and Monchecourt, is then treated to a discourse in which locations he observed that the flakes were 'deliberately long, thin and sharp at the edges'. Attention is then directed to Grand Pressigny where he notes that the chalk is mixed with granitic gravel from the central highlands and where he found the soil to be full of 'split flints, flakes, "axes" or "ploughshares" or cores'.

A local archaeologist Dr Leville, showed the writer his extensive collection of flints, arranged in three rooms of his house. His searches in the immediate area yielded many flakes but he observed that the 'manufacturing' of these implements was undertaken some three miles away to the north at La Douchette. They were so abundant at this site that another local collector, M Brouillet, collected about half a ton.

On the more southerly Oolite hills, he found no flakes though in the even more southerly climes of the Dordogne, they appear again in abundance. Even further south, from Sicily to the Middle East, there is also an abundance of flakes, all of which areas have an intimate connection to the Cretaceous strata.

P.84. The writer notes that flakes are often found far away from the chalk on the oldest sedimentary rocks, which position, the commonly accepted explanation would have it, that they occupied as a result of human agency. In Barnstaple, he claims to have traced this phenomenon to an area of over twenty miles long and ten miles wide, and even as far distant as the 'granite Isles of Scilly'. The sketch on the opposing page, shows a section of the beds on the north side of Bideford bay and the position of the flakes at the base of the soil. This he says is an example of a raised beach in which are rocks from much further afield, and not found naturally in that locality. Such examples of this are to be seen also in Ireland where hard Antrim chalk deposits can be found in the drifts of Dublin, Wicklow and along the south coast of Ireland, even turning up as far south as Caernarvonshire in Wales.

P.85. In Cornwall the writer notes the existence of [crushed quartz, locally called 'spar'. He notes that this rock occupies the same position at the base of the soil as the shattered flints and flakes shown in the upper section in the sketch. Birling Gap, near Eastbourne, where a farmer moved the soil over a section of the chalk expected to collapse onto the beach below, demonstrated a surface covered with shattered flints and flakes, some of which were 'perfect flake knives'.

The writer notes that natural formation processes, such as the bioturbation that occurs during rabbit warren building, revealed many delicate flakes. He describes the valley, near the village [of Birling?] in which flakes deposited by fluvial action have been deposited. An excavation [in a garden the site of which is not specified] is described:

- 1. Surface soil of rearranged loess 12 feet
- 2. Stratum of flint flakes 6 inches thick
- 3. Loess with fractured pieces of angular flint 4 feet
- 4. Pure loess about 20 feet resting on chalk

P.86. At this location, the longer flakes could be traced a considerable distance along the hillside, being from 3-6 inches in length, broad and irregular in shape and thin with a perfect bulb of percussion on one side. Here the writer suggests that these flakes were of geological [natural] rather than archaeological [human] origin. He notes that those flakes exposed for long periods developed a white patina whilst those protected deep in the soil were clean with fresh looking fractures and had very sharp edges. Some of these flakes were long, up to eight inches with gradations of fracture from those with 'the roughest fracture to the most perfect flake', all of which were indiscriminately intermingled. He says of this: '... but the most degraded savage would not cast away his well-formed implements with the refuse chips. They shew no additional workmanship beyond the ordinary fracture of the flint and bear no evidence of use'. BH has drawn a vertical line by this last statement and written 'And I take it, here's the rub'.

The writer once again turns his attention to Devon where, he notes, such flakes are to be found over a 200 mile square area and he suggests that 'it cannot be said that a few scattered savages required a manufactory for weapons two hundred times as that required by the British Navy at the magnificent dockyard...' He further notes that many of the flakes are found in precipitous cliffs, overhanging the Atlantic.

P.87. In such a position he suggests, no 'savage' could reasonably be expected to find a foothold to retrieve the flint from. He agrees however that some of the flakes described in the forgoing exegesis, had been selected and used by man. Notes that from the South Downs a polished and ground flake had been found and suggests that the techniques used to produce it were identical to those used to make 'celts'. Entry concludes.

On Sunday February 12<sup>th</sup> 1893. At home and entertaining visitors, including a Japanese student. The following Sunday February 19<sup>th</sup> 1893 there is a diary entry describing the day and meetings with, among others, Mr. Abbott and his friends Mr and Mrs Holmes at High Field. Notes the presence of a new [to him] and quite rare moss in this location.

In a 'special note' BH tells us that the temperature was the highest in February for many years followed by a rapid fall with continuous rain till Wednesday, when it snowed till Thursday. According to one of BH's friends writing in a Maidstone Journal, it was the worst ever recorded by him.

P.88. Original letter from WG Smith dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 1891: 'My dear Sir, I was pleased to see your well-known handwriting- had not seen abstract – will read it tonight and return tomorrow with a note. The last implement I numbered was 1440, but I have given away 352 so I only have 1440,352,1088 left. But I really do not much esteem numbers I seek for novelties but it is clear that Palaeolithic, man was a monotonous rascal. Hope you remain well, yours faithfully WG Smith.'

Copy of part of an article from *Nature* dated August 29<sup>th</sup> 1878. Emanating from the British Association when Dr. Evans was President, this contains two couplets of verse about archaeological finds from the distant past. Pengelly is mentioned so it is possible to guess the time-frame implied.

P.89. Copy of part of an article or book on *Miocene Man* by Nottage dated February 23<sup>rd</sup> 1893. In this short extract the French Archaeologist Dr Jules Verneau says that he sees in England the lithic evidence of the existence of man in this epoch.

Agnes tells BH that she walked to Chislehurst Church on Sunday when the preacher made reference in his sermon to man's existence before the Bible was conceived. [Agnes was one of BH's two daughters]. Dated by EH to February 24<sup>th</sup> 1893.

On Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup> 1893 BH had a day out in north Kent where he stayed overnight. He describes a walk, which took in Swanscombe, Northfleet and Aylesford. Two small ink sketches of palaeoliths he found at Aylesford. Sunday was one of the wettest on record. He recalls spending time in a store- room. Though he does not say what they looked at there it must have been lithic artefacts. He started his homeward journey by train at 2.56

A note on a 'break axe' accompanied by a sketch of a wooden gate, which the axe was used to make.

P.90. A newspaper cutting of a talk given by Thomas Harrison to the Melbourne Catholic Young Men's Society entitled 'The Moon'. Not dated.

A copy of an extract from of a letter to BH by Bell on horizontal sections (Geological Survey). Dated 1890. In it he says he has been examining the document and assures BH that there is nothing in it about which BH is not aware. Tells BH that he can access the document in the library.

PP. 90-91 Three exquisite ¾ size sketches in ink of Mesolithic stone age implements by Tomkins (BH's nephew) which look as if they are plates for a publication.

P.92. A small newspaper clipping which outlines the pronunciation of local place names.

In BH's hand there is a copy of Dean Ramsey's thoughts entitled 'A Scottish Life of Character'. In this short extract, he ponders on what will be said and remembered of him after his death.

On the opposing page is a telegram dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 1892 to BH requesting that he send '...if possible two quite unworked but much water worn pebbles from West Yoke. ... section of British Association'

For and on behalf of Maidstone Museum and Bentsliff Art Gallery  
Angela Muthana 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014