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NOTE.

THE POST-GLACIAL PERIOD.

Professor WARREN UPHAM, Assistant Geologist of the United States Geological Survey, in a paper "On the Cause of the Glacial Period," makes the following remarks:—

"Measurements of the gorge and falls of St. Anthony show that the length of the post-glacial or recent epoch to have been about 8,000 years. From surveys of Niagara Falls, Mr. C. K. Gilbert thinks it to be 7,000 years, more or less.* From the rates of wave cutting along the sides of Lake Michigan, Dr. E. Andrews estimates it at not less than 7,500 years. Prof. Wright obtains a similar result from the rate of filling of kettle holes among the gravel knolls and ridges called kames. Prof. B. K. Emerson, from the rate of deposition of modified drift in the Connecticut Valley, thinks that the time cannot exceed 10,000 years. A similar estimate is formed from the study of the Lakes Bonneville and La Hontan. The last great rise was contemporaneous with the last extension of ice sheets. Prof. James Geikie maintains that man in Europe made neolithic implements before the recession of the ice sheet from Scotland, Denmark and the Scandinavian peninsula, and Prestwich suggests that the dawn of civilization in Egypt may have been coeval with the glaciation of north-western Europe, and D. Mackintosh cites the boulders in Wales and Yorkshire as proof that a period of not more than 6,000 years has elapsed.† Dr. Robert Bell refers to the preservation of the glacial striation and polishing. The striæ are as fresh looking as if the ice had left them only yesterday. According to the astronomical theory which Croll and James Geikie have advocated, the glacial period was from 240,000 to 80,000 years ago, but it is wholly untenable in view of the geological evidence."‡

* See also *Victoria Institute Transactions*, on these Surveys, vol. xix, p. 93.

† In a paper read before the Victoria Institute; *Trans.*, vol. xix, p. 73.

‡ *American Antiquarian*.