



O. The original left tusk. M. A mammoth tusk. T. A mammoth tusk from Alaska.

THE RANDOLPH MASTODON. BY PROF. JOS. MOORE.

The genus Mastodon, belonging to the elephant family, began as far back in time as the miocene, or middle tertiary, and continued into the earlier centuries of the present epoch. First and last there have been as many as twenty known species, distributed about as follows: Europe nine, Asia five, N. America four, S. America two. Remains have been found in Australia which have been claimed for Mastodon, but naturalists are waiting for the claim to be better substantiated.

The species known to N. America are, *M. Americanus* (same as *M. giganteus* or *M. ohioiticus*), *M. obscurus*, *M. productus* and *M. murificus*. The only species found in Indiana or adjoining states, so far as I have learned, is *M. Americanus*. That this majestic creature once trod our wilds in prehistoric times, roaming in herds from Canada to the Gulf, feeding on the prairies, in the forest jungles and on the banks of lakes and streams, often getting helplessly and fatally mired in our bogs—that it did all this and more seems to be quite satisfactorily evident.

They must have been crowded slowly southward before the great ice sheet, and afterwards followed the retreat of the same northward that they might possess the land in company with the Mammoth and other great beasts during the champlain and terrace epochs and into the beginning of the present.

It is a common thing to find Mastodon remains. Hardly a week passes but that some paper near or far reports a find. Often it is a false report, but probably oftener it has some foundation in fact, even if the discovery be but a grinder or part of a tusk.

People say they never lived in herds here for thousands of years, or with all the digging for wells, sewers, cellars, railroads and hundreds of other things, we would be finding remains every few hours. There were millions of horses in Indiana previous to, say, 1860. Now send out a company of explorers to find skeletons of horses that died previous to said year and see how many they will bring in. But it is far from common to find the skeleton of a Mastodon that is approximately complete, and rarer still to find such an one which, on drying, does not crumble to bits.

Near twenty years since a farmer struck some very large bones and a tusk two or three miles from New Paris, Ohio. A number of the bones were well preserved. A tusk was taken out, entire, which measured near eleven feet in length and ten inches in diameter at base. Such a tusk would seem to indicate a powerful male of full age. On drying, for want of proper treatment, this majestic specimen went to crumbs and splinters, except three and a half feet of the outer end. The other remains consisted of a pair of grinders, half a dozen vertebræ, more than a dozen

ribs, stumps of the scapulæ, one femur, one humerus, the lower segments of the hind legs, the main part of the sternum and a few feet bones. After the original purchaser had tried the show business for a time, said remains were secured for Earlham College.

Some eight years later a Mr. Bookout, near Losantville, Randolph County, while ditching to drain a small bog abounding in peat, struck the major part of an entire skeleton, which almost exactly matched, for size, the New Paris remnant. While the head was of extraordinary size, the tusks were but moderate. The pelvis was six feet, two inches across and ample in every direction. This was most likely a female. In prying at the larger parts, the head and pelvis, to remove them from the mud they parted, each into a number of pieces. These, on drying for years, would of course crumble at the broken edges. These massive fragments of head and pelvis were sent to Ward & Co., of Rochester, New York, who arranged them in original position, and so welded them by filling in the gaps that only an expert would suspect they had ever been in fragments.

The Randolph remnant, in addition to the head and pelvis, gave us about half the vertebræ, both scapulæ, radius and ulna, both right and left, one good femur, the right, a majority of the ribs, and near a bushel of feet bones. The Randolph remnant would have been secured when first taken up but for the price. By waiting more than eight years it shrank to less than a quarter the original standard.

The composite skeleton as it now stands was mounted by the curator of the museum, assisted by a very efficient student. It is nearly all bone. Both remnants, however, furnished but one humerus, the right. The lower jaw is perfect, with all the grinders. The tusks are paper but are moulded exactly after originals. A tusk of the Randolph find lies on the platform, but was too heavy in its brittle condition to mount. Of the vertebræ, including those of the neck, body and the larger joints of the tail, thirty-six are bone. Of the thirty-eight ribs all are bone but three. The hind legs are all bone except the fibula on the right side. The sternum is bone.

From the pedestal to the top of the highest spine is eleven feet, less half an inch. From pedestal to crown of head is eleven feet two inches. From pedestal to summit of pelvis, nine feet. From sole of foot to top of scapula, nine feet, seven inches. From forward curve of tusks to backward curve of tail, twenty feet, two inches. It ranks among the largest of known mastodons. Such a creature when alive could scarcely have weighed less than ten tons.