

A RARE FIND

The Skeleton of a Mastodon Unearthed by the Storms

A remarkable discovery was made last Saturday on the farm of J. C. Dosch about six miles west of this city in the town of Dayton, which is of much importance to those interested in the study of naturalism and which as a relic of a bygone age is a curiosity of no little value. Parties walking along the banks of Elm Creek, a small stream flowing through the Dosch farm, discovered that the heavy rains had dislodged from a resting place of several thousand years the bones of some prehistoric monarch of gigantic stature, which are thought to be the remains of a mastodon—one of the largest mammals abounding during the Tertiary age and was, though much larger in size, closely allied to the elephant. The following day Mr. Dosch, assisted by neighboring farmers, began digging along the banks of the creek where the bones first discovered were washed out and, after reaching a depth of about eight feet, was rewarded by unearthing about thirty different bones of the monster skeleton. A part of a rib apparently representing about three-fourths of its original length, measured over three and one-half feet, and the circumference of the bone of the front leg at the knee joint, as accurately measured by a representative of this paper, was thirty-nine inches. Other bones were proportionately large. The damp blue clay in which this skeleton was embedded had assisted in keeping it in an almost perfect state of preservation, and it gave but little evidence of having remained buried in the earth since the time when mammals instead of man were predominant.

Several flint arrow heads were also picked up near where the remains were found.

Searchers are now endeavoring to procure those parts of the skeleton not yet found and it will probably occupy a prominent place in the state historical museum at Madison.

