THE BOOK OF THE GREAT SEA-DRAGONS,
ICHTHYOSAURI AND PLESIOSAURI
GEDOLIM TANINIM, OF MOSES

EXTINCT MONSTERS OF THE ANCIENT EARTH

With Thirty Plates

COPYED FROM SKELETONS IN THE AUTHORS COLLECTION OF FOSSIL ORGANIC REMAINS
(DEPOSITED IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM)

BY

THOMAS HAWKINGS ESQ. F.G.S. ETC.

Berossus, the Chaldean saith. “ A Time when the Universe was darkness and water, and wherein certain Animals of frightful and compound forms were generated. There were Serpents and other Creatures with the mixed shapes of one another, of which pictures are kept in the Temple of Belus, at Babylon.”

LONDON:
WILLIAM PICKERING
MDCCXL
TO THE REV. WILLIAM BUCKLAND, D.D. F.R.S.
CANNON OF CHRIST CHURCH, AND READER IN GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY IN THE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD. INST REG SOC PARIS CORRESP ETC. ETC.

MY DEAR SIR

At eighteen years old, I formed the proud design of obtaining for our Country, a Geological Collection of the Organic Remains of the Ancient Earth, which should rank with the Great Collections, and peradventure excel them.

At twenty, it was my happy fortune to obtain the honourable sanction of your high name and approbation. In my twenty-third year, your alliance helped me to effect the first step towards the end of my ambition, and my early Saurian Remains were deposited in the British Museum.

You have ever since given me a thousand flattering testimonies of Friendship, and tightened all the Chords of that Sentiment, by which man is bound to man.

I regret, that in dedicating this Book of Ichthyosauri and Plesiosauri to yourself, I so faintly respond those affectionate manifestations, and feel how much I remain,

My dear Sir,

Your obliged and devoted Servant,

THOMAS HAWKINS.

Sharpham Park, Somerset
March 26th 1840
LIST OF PLATES

ALL THE SAURIS, EXCEPT THE SUBJECT OF PLATE IV, ARE DEPOSITED IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

It may be proper to state that the Author, having published an Imperial Folio, in 1834, entitled, "Memoirs of Ichthyosauri and Plesiosauroi, twenty-eight Plates" (copied from specimens in his Collection of Fossil Organic Remains,) seized dinst opportunity to print off some hundreds more than could be required for that work; foreseeing the invaluable uses they render the present one. All Histories, but more especially those of extinct Races, which are arrived at by the slowest degrees, have been improved by supplements, some have survived their supplements, and as in the present instance, even merged into, and by that means, elevated it into the Real History.

Our Nomenclature has been carefully pruned in the Volume before us; but since the titles attached to certain of the Plates bear some fruit, we leave them there in the old position.

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PLESIOSAURI

GENUS TRITARSOSTINUS.

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XXIX. Copros of those great Sea-Dragons, Ichthysauri and Ichthyosauri in the Author's Collections, not yet transferred to the British Museum.
CHAPTER I

CONTENTS—Remains of extinct Races inscribed with certain Fragmentary Truths; The Moderns speculating upon the ancient Earth, as a mere physical theorem, revert to Pagan Philosophies, which these remains protest. Scripture and Tradition insist on the perfection of Adam—The opinion that the first men were of inferior power refuted by their monuments, the Pillars of Seth, and Cyclopean Ruins; The Archaic Records the oldest extinct, and Sanchoniatho, Berosus, Manetho, and others, quoted in proofs. Measured by our Notions of Time, that which is Past stretches out into Eternity-Time reined in by Scripture and History, the Earth too offering proofs of a Beginning and a Supreme Cause.—The infidel argument, that animals and vegetables started into existence at the same instant, answered.—Of the Light mentioned in Genesis, chap. i. Ver 3, and proofs thereof.—The fossil eyes of all extinct animals faomed like our own, shewing that they used the same light as ourselves, and, judging from the colossal proportions of the Primitive Flora, It flourished in a heat which animals could not breathe—Succession of Beasts and, of the recent Creation of Man—Of Eden; Geologists challenged to produce a carnivorous terrestrial animal which could molest it—Astronomy attests the specific conditions of one (that) epoch of the Globe; Every region of the Earth exhibits numberless skeletons of contemporaneous herbivorous animals—The Fall; Attended by all kinds of calamity; Fierce beasts; Climatal and other terrible revolutions in the dependent world—Atlantis, Europe, and Africa, the girdle of the world traversed by the historical giants, who built the stupendous monuments before alluded to—The carcasses of the Carnivora proportioned to the Titans they warred upon, and nearly extirpated—The Flood—The Backbones of the Globe broken, from the Poles downward—The Boulders and other drift found over all the Earth in a certain line, show the manner and Universality of the Deluge—The Ark admitted only the domestic Races of Animals—Scripture quoted in proof thereof—Recapitulation.

It will have been sufficiently understood by the Dedication page of the Present, as well as from a former Memoir of Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosauri, published in 1834, that our first intention was limited to the effectuating a vast Collection of the Organized Relics of the Old World, in the British Museum, without reference to this or to that Theory of the Nature of Things, Past, Now, or Time, in search of the bleached Skeletons of extinct Nations; to evoke from the dust of Oblivion the countless Generations which have passed away from the Earth, for ever, were the objects we had originally in view. But Time, emulating that Eternity whence he emerges, seems to have wholly occupied himself in perpetuating the Creatures of his passing Reign, in the stony missals of the Dead. In recovering, therefore, the Elegies of extinguished Races, we have been tempted to secure also the inscriptions which accompanied them, quaint and intricate although they be, and of a style so old, that the appreciation of its Truthfulness and Beauty is almost lost.

It has been so long the Fashion to consider Physical and Moral Evil apart one from the other, that we are in danger of reverting to the Epicurean Philosophy; nor has anything contributed to this more than the study of the Ancient Earth, considered as a mere physical Theorem, by many laborious arguments in which the Moderns toil to the same conclusions which circulated in Pagan Greece and Rome.

But the Awful Wrecks compassing us round about, and restless Eld murmuring ever in our ear, and abhorrent Heaven himself, eclipsed, but not extinguished, protest against the cheerless Spirit of Knowledge, by which all Things are referred to insensate Matter and icy Dream; and beckon us from the Paradise of Fools, within whose Magic Circle so many Souls have madly staked and lost their all.

1. The Fortunes of Mankind have an Orbit, the perielbow being with Adam, the aphinel with the Flood. Perfect in the Image of his Maker, stored with all Goodness, our ancestral demi-god wielded the Ministers of Power obedient to his unquestioned Will. Such is the Basis of Scripture, and such also is the legitimate deduction of History. But incontinent Liberality deceiving Faith, Reason, empty with the fumes of that same flattery by which we originally fell, cometh of the unhallowed embrace, and finding in the crust of the Earth certain animal Types which ascend in the progress of Time, from the more simple to the complex; stealing a Sophism from "The Garden" of the Vulgar Greeks, avers that Matter, like "the Nilotic Mud," generated Creatures with the mere dawn of life, which improving upon themselves, at last elicited a man; a man like to all previous existences, imperfect, rudimental, savage. We care not how much the offensive Thesis is laughed at in the person of grotesque Lamark; its essential principles are sedulously upheld by every ancillary that can be impressed covertly in its hollow cause.

Here then, beloved Reader, in the first stage, we unmask an assassin which waylays the Doctrines of Sin, and of the Righteousness of God.

The experience, the reputation of all Nations, all Climes challenge, and indignantly denounce any such an opinion. The political and other Sciences in which the ancients so infinitely excelled ourselves; the Cyclopean Mounds of Antediluvian Masonry, and the Memory of Seth, co-equal with his haughty Pillars, bequeathed to latest Posterity: These imperishable Towers, missnamed, in the teeth of Josephus, the Pyramids, and these en-during Walls, vainly christened Pelasgian, were the works of emphatically the sons of Jehovah: Their beginning hid in the hoar of ages, puny men now peer about and around them, and actually correct and square their own imperfect traditionary lore of the Firmament by the Measure
which they afford. The framework of the most sublime Science Extant is borne upon their brawny Shoulders—the Astronomic Quarters, immutable, as They Themselves are and the incomprehensible, but yet inevitable, manifest Trinity is embodied at their Apex, and Throned the Supreme Lord of All. These are Axioms in Nature and Morals which, once learned, it seems impossible to forget; but the Noahites, though taught in the terror, neglected and yielded to the same Antagonist Demons which drowned their fathers in its ruthless waters. However, it remained for Moses, Sanchonutho, Berosus, Manetho, and a few other authors—of whose Consenting Scripta we know only the unsubstantial but witnessing echo, to vindicate Truth from the Ignorant and Falsehood which oppressed her, Erudite in all flenthenism, the former was enabled by the Divine Providence to separate from the Chaff the Living Bread by which he sustained the beleaguered Israelites until the Second Adam, reconquering the long lost Eden, gave of the Tree of Life unto all that will: And the latter were ordained for Heaven in the midst of those Idolatrous Peoples which scorned and madly set it at nought. And now, in these latter Days, Satan, knowing that his Time is at hand, circumventeth with Weapons drawn from his old Armoury, but with a more deadly poison, and con-sealed within the folds of a more flowing Robe. Shinar! with the Cherubic Sword, array Thee in the High Testimonies, and smite, smite Dagon upon the Threshold of God.

In like manner, neglected is the Voice of All History, Sacred and Profane; not deigning a glance upon the Archaic Record, the Footsteps of the Most High—implanted on the broad World, are met with the tiny Pole of Time, and pronounced infinite, reachless, measureless: And the huge Cycles, alkalized by The Hand from the, and Chinese, and negatively implied in The Genesis, shrieval into an indefinite Nothing before the weird talisman by which they are presently determined. Time himself is swallowed up by the Enchanter's Wand, and Matter, metamorphosed into the eternal, behold! the resurrection of the atheistical Lucretius. Thus soaring learus falls into the deep sea, where all is sombre blank, and wanders over the mountains of Darkness, stumbling at every mote, sinking into every pit; pitiable in his desolate but unconscious soul.

But the Earth, though of a perishable fabric, and fading fast away, yet retains the primal texture and coloring with which it came from The Master's Hand. Finitude and End are inscribed upon her Forehead, the Palms, and the Soles of her feet: And throughout all her Limits are scattered Medals, which, could come only from the Mint of Mind and the Treasury of the Governing God. Of the beginning, behold, Matter destitute of every Letter foreign to its absolute self, void, dead forged from the labouring Aenvl, when Time was called to be. And in the Transition Rocks, the semblance of his firstborn clay, mute, solitary, and unadorned; Chaos supporting his infant head with Arm fast withering away; Vacuity and Gloom are round about; the Symbols of dull Earth, insensate lifeless, drop over the vacated and erst but empty Throne of Chaos. dreamy, latent, dawning, Here Nature, and History, and Revelation are at one; Chimborazo, and Andes, and The Alps, Libanus Brathys, and his Antipodes, and ten thousand fragments torn from their thunder-rioted Crowns, and curved over the whole Globe by the exulting Deluge which blotted it out; and all Story of the Antique Time by Hermaic Chronicer, and Chaldean, or Priest-King, read in the sight of approving Heaven before the Congregation of Zion; I say, these all agree with, and justify one another, and serve to confound these Images of the Vain, and break them unto pieces.

Nathless, the Spirit of this Age, though confessedly baffled, yea, driven from a favourite Fastness, has many subterfuges in reserve; unable longer to gainsay those accumulative facts; in his own Archimedes, himself the Lever by which the Foundations of the World shall be moved, like a wretch in hot fever, he rusheth naked upon Death, in conflict with Spectres of his restless crazy brain. Questioning the recorded order of Creation, he classifies the Rocks which constaint Organic Remains, and boldly avers, that animal and vegetable life were from the first cotemporous, contrary to the Letter of that Sacred Text, by which alone we can arrive at the rationale of Creation. He ransacks whole Continents, and triumphantly points to unnumbered Skeletons disinterred from Strata with a Granitic Base: forgetful that, long after the separation of dry land, an Ocean remained whose Profound no light could possibly penetrate, by which alone vegetables exist, to which would descend with precipitates the old Averys with a more deadly poison, and con-sealed within the folds of a more flowing Robe. Shinnaar! with the Cherubic Sword, array Thee in the High Testimonies, and smite, smite Dagon upon the Threshold of God.

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Observe, further, the striking analogy which holds Earth and Heaven, ages after the former perfected, was devised a goodly inheritance unto Man: They ask, "Where was Eden, his habitation?"

"I demand, "What is the Monster that could mar it?" Go, O Geology, unto the whole Secondary Series of Hieroglyph Monuments, and bring thence one solitary Image of a Land-born, red-blooded, twain-hearted Terrestrial: Betake thee to the frowning Oceaning, and the Red-Sand-stone of Wales, and Connecticut Valley, and to the Weald, and the Stonesfield Slate; to all, all, from the Coal Measures to the Chalk inclusive; examine them all: In exact coincidence with the Inevitable Word, they yield a myriad Molluscs, and impressions of a million gorths round all Life, and perchance, the yea serpent which devoured them withal. And from the brackish Waters, slowly emerge cold-blooded Amphibia, Balanachus, Saurus, Salamandra, and the insect food of the Dragon-birds which swam both above and below the Billows that nourished and brought them forth: Sharp fanged and murdering Creatures of the Deep abundant. But the prodigious whole betray not one Symbol that we require. Proceed, and search diligently the eloquent Annals of the Older Members of the Great Tertiary Fauna; and observe with what respect the Animals are on the Record, but no mention made of one Land destroyer,— he came not before the Fall of Adam. "Ecce dedi vobis omnem herbam afferentem semen super terram,—Viditque Deus Cuncta, quæ fecerat, et erat valde bona."

And Astronomy, watching at Heaven's Gate, attests that, until after this Jubilant Sabbath of the Globe, it knew no Evil Day, reluctant Geology admitting the same fact. That in the Beginning the Earth sprung forth round in all proportion, a fluid Sphere, and was finally moulded and ripened when the dry Land arose from the fostering Waters: No obliquity of Axis exposed to the alternate Tropic and Chill which now prevail, no sudden Storm, or treacherous tide invaded her peaceful Borders, no malignant Comet propagated Death; but the refreshing Wing of the Spirit of Jehovah showered upon her beautiful head the Oil of Gladness, "the Morning Stars singing together, and the Sons of God shouting for joy."

But, Knowledge, rashly declining the Chart of Heaven, at the commencement of his Travel over the boundless Wastes and Regions of Time, still wanders he knoweth not whither, mistaking one Land for another, and choosing the baby-toys of his own workshop, before the priceless Jewels which the Father prepared his own. His Carnality hungereth alway, and the flesh of his lean famishing body is in, as was in Sinbad's desperate eye, more precious than all the living diamonds within his reach.

Hence the Chronology with which, negligent of the Elements of Morals, he has been pleased to invest the several Systems of Matter, is as incorrect as a geographical decree, taken without Line or Quadrant. Arguing a hundred kindred Issues from an absurd premise, like Almanasar, he builds up a glittering theory, as easily demolished as the poor visionary's basket of glass. Casting the little plummet of a Child into the Bottomless Gulf of Wisdom, and thinking that her Depths are sounded, he hastens to inscribe a New Testament on triple brass, and palm it upon a doting world. In despite of every deduction legitimately obtained from the Books of Nature and of God (which point to a large unharvested store in which sickle has been never thrust). Man, it is still persisted, was originally a Savage, and the Biblical Flood Chimerical as Itself. Thus the Hydra multiplies his head, and hopes to escape alive, though compassed with the Artillery of Heaven.
be spent: our hearts die within us before the glazing
demons intent to howl "lo triompe" over the lost
Islands and shining Shores of a conquered world.
From the now bleak and unapproachable Poles,
to the navel of our Parent Earth; from the snowy
and swamps of Ladoga, to the fervid Sands of
Bengal, everywhere, in every Zone, continue
unanswerable Memories of this happy, this Golden
Age. The harmless Pachydermata, Dinotherrum,
and his kindred Giants, for which our
impoveryed and curse-stricken Planet can
find no cradle warm enough, then ranged the whole
world. The thermal Earth and Ocean, bathed in
light, sustained a thousand Genera of vast Animals
and Vegetables, which retreated before the coming
Cold to the Equator, and even there, eventually
withered and died out in an un-genial and freezing
Climate. The fires of our little Sun sufficed them not,
the dank Shadows of approaching Doom paralysed, and the leaden Hand of transformed
Time speedily swept them into dust and oblivion.
The iceberg of Thule, and the Patagonian
Wastes, Irak, Arabia Petraea, and the illimitable
Savannas and Prairies of the New World, grave
their manifold bones.
2. Palæozoic Earth, rejoicing in the Benison
day of God, pales in the pænal fire about to wrap her
in ruin, and which shall finally raise her utterly
out. "Adam," the Lucifer and Protagonist of
Antiquity, doing mis-prison against Sovereignty,
turns the weapons of Loyalty upon his Liege,
and plunges them into the Bowels of his Mother
Earth. His serakened Angels for which once
he bringeth forth grim Monsters, which ravage her
Garden, the Locusts that consume it away. The
angry and horrent 'waters too, loosened, swell
into a frightful roar, leap upon a thousand
Plains, and greedily swallow them up.
an Eternity of Time to place them where they are
found. The Noaehic Ark he laugheth at, and boldly
questions the device thereof, with a sneer at its
living contents: He traverseth all men, all things,
even Jupiter; quenching all light, all glory in his
bountiful Spirit, dancing inebriate over the
Volcanic Abyss of expectant Hades.

Nevertheless, The Word, Reader! The Word
abideth sure. The Backbone of the World is broken,
and immense fractures running in divergent lines
from the Poles to the Equator, verify the Seat of
Dislocation. Whether Africa, the enormous rocks and boulders of Granite, and
other debris, outspread over the actual continuants
in a given certain direction, he charges them to
existing Causes, in defiance of the most positive
mathematical deduction; and still farther, requires
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even Jupiter; quenching all light, all glory in his
bountiful Spirit, dancing inebriate over the
Volcanic Abyss of expectant Hades.

"Omne cum Proteus pecus agit alto
Viscece Montes,
Piscum et anima genus haec sit almo*"

Nor wonder we that a vessel of wood did safely ride
the Tamed Element— which had just extinguished
the Globe; for the destructive Forces, seated in the
Axes, the farther we proceed from that centre, the
less their effect, until
arriving at the extreme limit the waters quietly prevailing the Ark thereupon did float in Halcyon peace. And all History and Tradition harmoniously agree in setting the Heaven-protected Argonaut in precisely that part of the Earth, which first rose from the retreating Ruin. Thus again Nature, and Philosophy, and Fact, and Relevation are at one, so that "he which runneth may read, and a fool therein can hardly err."

Some weak and miscalcitrant persons, neglecting the context of the Sacred Word, confounding around them the many terrestrial Families of our own Earth, take pains to picture a Ship large enow to save their autocrat progenitors: No such thing was ever contemplated except by their own inexcusable folly, it bring distinctly implied that Noah took with him those Creatures only which had been domesticated by Man. It was a most gracious condition of the Covenant made with Noah, that his posterity should continue the services of the several beasts which had been subjected to their use by the Antediluvians: Jehovah covenanted upon the Exodus from the Ark with Them through all Generations, and the terms of that Covenant plainly infer the existence of other beasts besides, whether in fact or in the Omniscent Intention it imports not.—"Ecc Ego (Deus) statuum pactum meum vociscum, et cum semine vestro post vos: et ad omne animam viventem, que est vociscum, tam in volucrus quam in jumentis, et pseudibus terrae cunctis, que egressa sunt de arca, et universis bestiis terra." And which one of all the Tribes friendly unto Man is departed from us? But those with no Covenant, even the pure, unmixed Carnivora, their end cometh;—and then the Millennium.

Thus, beloved, in humble service with Faith and Rever-
Light being well nigh proved to be soft undulations of ether, or at least a property which cannot possibly exist at rest; if not itself motion, with motion co-relative: Light ordained to act upon Matter in vacuum, would necessarily affect, if not Matter, the Conditions previously belonging thereto. The earliest probable effects of Light Would be to penetrate, and finally dismember the pure substance exposed to it: that may have been Couched Calorie, which, at the touch of light would explode in a million fiery gases, and flee nebulous through space; that our planet was once actually fused, the Primitive rocks, and the Caverns which riddle them, irrefigurably show. And the Laws of Refrigeration would gradually produce the transitional detritus which composes the upper crust of the World. Under circumstances of an ardent Climate, and long continuous light, the most vascular Order of Plants would commence the Great Epoch of Life; and as the Ocean must necessarily retain a higher temperature than the land, which would soon follow, a heat and refractory Nature would seize upon that first, and cover it with a forest of vegetative Giants. The Geysers of Iceland maintain certain plants, in a temperature fatal to any animal whatever, and so credential the claim of the terrestrial Vegetable World to the most ancient pedigree known. The enormous Equiseta, Lycopodiaceae, and other Cryptogamia, and the equally luxuriant Monocotyledons of the Coal Measures, bespeak exactly that System of things to which every fact and argument in Physics bear such happy witness. "Dixit quoque Deus: Fiat furniguramen in medio aquarum: et dividat aquas ab aquis,—et factum est Vesperae et mane, dies secundus. Dixit vero Deus, congregator aquae, quæ sub celo sunt, in locum unum ; et apparet arida.—Et ait: germinet terra herbam virtem, et facientem semen, et lignum pomiferum facientem fructa genus—suum, cujus semen in semitipso sit super terram.—Et factum est vespere et mane, dies tertius."

Thus Religion and Philosophy her hand-maid evoking from the dark shadows of Time the Colors in which the first limbed, present-day, our Text, and the Coa l Measures of the Coal Measures, dem onstrate a reaction, slowly but surely accomplishing know ledge and the enormous wondrous Fortunes were to begin. It is hardly to be expected that we shall ever discover the Primal Isle of Earth, and in the nascent slate of Geognosy can hope only to generalize, but one ter rereal vegetative Remains of every distant Star. The Floral Races have been privileged to ponder. A molecule of mere earth, it were vain, perhaps, to search for amongst the endless species to which it has sported, but the effects of Light and Motion are portrayed throughout all the globe in Characters which speak a Tongue of their own, and Chronicle a Regime far different from ours. It were but reasonable to assume, that, whereas things which now are, differ in their intensities from things that have been, a Revolution in Nature occurred by which that Change was brought about. To scan that Change but by the Analogies which everywhere present themselves to us, for whom it was actually accomplished, were to use foreign instruments and a sorry Logic indeed. For nature metamorphoses Effects into Causes from the very beginning to the End. All the threads are disposed in warp and in woof, crossed and knitted fast together by one and the same Contrivance, and the Laws first promulgated by Queenly Nature are active or passive as may be, but never changed. The Pandectæ of Nature then which do and do not tolerate the doctrine of Modern Analogies, are not at variance; and with this fact we proceed to the first Capitulum to which those Analogies are our only key.

The Normal Earth, palled in an Atmosphere surcharged with moisture to opacity, was specially adjusted to the Vegetative Kingdom, the vasty wrecks of which ancient Giants. It is also of less evident that the loss of heat by radiation, and the impassibility of precipitated solids would undermine a Population holding by a Tenure like this. The Strata therefore, which follow the Coal-Measures, demonstrate a re-action, slowly but surely accomplishing knowledge and the enormous wondrous Fortunes were to begin. It is hardly to be expected that we shall ever discover the Primal Isle of Earth, and in the nascent slate of Geognosy can hope only to generalize, but one ter rereal vegetative Remains as seminal rock substrata our Text, and the Coa l Measures of Virginia, as heretofore stated, afford that important example. We need not observe that the Floral Races lost their torrid vigor consequent with that heat and humidity which especially signalized the advent of Time: The towering Palms and Cacti, which first lifted their glorious heads in a Land all their own, and the egregious Sigillaria, fringing the otherwise lifeless marshes which environed them, may and did survive through the Coming Ages of the populous Deep, and sustained the Fauna of a ripening World. We curiously explore the most ancient Fragments of the Primitive Flora, and find there not one relic of the Animal Kingdom: but the ascending Archives declare myriads of Cephalopods, Crintes, Trilobites, and Cocchi-fers, creatures with the least sensation, and which would be the very first to start into existence when the Oceanic temperament full to their necessary point. And the petrified Eyes of Crustaceans remaining to this day in a perfect slate, triumphantly show that the same structure and disposition were common to themselves and their remotest descendant, satisfying us that the identical light of the Sun by which we have vision was also the medium of sight to them, and inscribing the moment in which that Sun was first manifest. Hence, coupling supernal Light, excessive heat, and the atmospheric Consequences of both together: it is not too much to say, nor for Philosophy to concede that the Light of the Sun (if it existed then at all, which is doubtful,) could not penetrate that atmosphere, nor subdue that other Light, and that it had no conceivable use upon our Planet before those Creatures were brought forth to whom alone it could he of any the least value, and without which indeed, they could not live. "Dixit autem Deus; fiat luminaria in firmamento coeli.—Et sinit in signa et tempora,et dies, et annos—Et factum est vespere et mane, dies quarta."
Having once recognised the Creature with life, we need not pause upon the seeming exceptions of contemporaneous Piscal Vertebrata, sometimes found with those Primordial Patterns of Marine Being. The System of adjustment abides, although we are as yet unable to infer every Record to a true Chronological place, and the Marine Blood-bond to his actual Age: And the absence of a True terrestrial Creature from the Earlier Deposits, apart from physiological induction, which gives the affirmative, decides that the Ocean had the priority of a Sentient Race. New Orders of Animals multiply with the Progressive Seas, until Dragons come to Lord it over the teeming Waters, and over also the Libellulae of the superincumbent Skies. “Dixit, etiam Deus; producant aquae reptile anima viventis, et volatile super terrae sub ursamento  . . . Et factum est vespere et mane, dies quiescat.” 

II. The Quantity of Time, like the Quadrature of the Circle, is unknown. It is either slow, or quick, or short, or long, according to the ever oscillating mind of a man. True, we take the ordinary measure of the Astral Bodies by the Compute Time, but our notion of it is absolutely indefinite and worthless. Dreaming we often crowd the events of a Century and the immensity of a Universe into the shortest space; and Ephemera born that instant to die, have most likely a sense of duration full and complete in their own. To ask then about Time, were absurd; but the acknowledgment of the Heavenly “light givers” constrains us to ask if thenceforth their, appointed mission, they were the only sources from which Animal and Vegetable Life obtained sustentation. The condition of these Kingdoms, long after the Epoch to which we refer, the Præfabrication of Organism which, bespeak sunlight, negatives that hypothesis; the fossil Skeletons of those Sentient and Floraic Families, which most demand an exaggerated, heat, are alone found, long—long after the revelation of the Sun. The finality of Physics was accomplished by degrees, and the Earth Continued her Career in the Original Cycle of Time, of which the fishes and beasts knew their individual portion by the light of that Sun, which awoke their heart-tides and lulled them too. The ordinary day then of twenty-four hours existed for the Earth, who computed Time and the Depths proclaim the goodness of Jehovah, by whom the Heavens, and the Earth, and all their Host were finished. “Dixit quoque Detis: producat terra animam viveatem in generis suo, jumenta, et reptilia, et bestias term, sexu hominis, et piscibus maris, et volatilibus coeli, faciamus Hominem ad imaginem, et similibum nostram; et præsit piscibus maris, et volatilibus coeli, et bestis, universaque terræ, omnique reptili, quod movetur in terra. Viditque Deus cuncta que fecerat; et erat valde bona. Et factum est vespere et mane, dies sextus.”

SECT. III. Adorable Elohim—blessed be His Holy Name, made the World, built it for a Throne, and enriched the Sceptre thereof for the Son of Elohim, The King of the World came, with Dominion, and the Roll of his Glory is long. There is, alas! another Register of succeeding Times, penned by terrene Fiends. Clotty horrible, it opens the History of fiendish Brutes, which came by permission, but surely not the Hand of Jehovah. Their unclean carcasses in every quarter of the Globe, suggest a Curse universal, and their ugly bones offer us a Scale by which to calculate the stately Titans upon whom they warred. Here then we fall upon Evil; like Time it is a Property of which we know barely the Effects, and per-hap the most deplorable Consequence of Evil is that very fact. It converts in fire, air, earth, and in water, pouncing upon us at pleasure, for ever spoiling and laying us waste. We may call it the antithesis of every good, but the definition of Evil was known to man only at the moment of his fall.

“Fetus Prometheus addere, principi Limo coactus, particular umque Dictum Desectam”

It is enough that Evil reaches above the Clouds, and
for our Argument that Violence is one of his attributes, let us then track Violence back from our own Iron Age to his lair, in which he first on Earth lapped his tongue in blood. It may be objected that many murderous monsters ensanguined the Primal Deep, and all before the coming of Man, and the revelation of Moral Evil in his person. Now, it is impossible to say that no Race of fallen Intelligences had previously ruled the Ocean, for whose sake, it had been accredited. This opinion was held by the most ancient Nations, and even embodied in descriptive Colors on their Temple. The Holy Scriptures Themselves encourage some such an hypothesis, in that Cain says, “every one that findeth me shall slay me,” at a time when it has sorely vexed theologians to furnish with other men. And Genesis pronouncing once that Jehovah blessed the Creatures of the Deep, gives the green herb for food to the beast of the Earth, the fowl of heaven, and every creeping thing upon the earth, and then in this final summation leaves the inhabitants of the Sea entirely out. This expressive silence upon the exclamation of Cain, and the Magian Traditions, are sufficiently indicative of an hypothesis, the import of which stands confessed under our notice. So many Sciences as well as Arts have been wholly lost, or we may have traced this fact far and wide; in Nature and Ethics, up to its source, and there squared it as certainly with the Internal Law, as with the Analogies of reason, the induction of Faith, and the belief of Nations.

Passing this, then, we shudder over the old Spectral World, when, armed with poison, fang, and fury, ten thousand hideous monsters: slipped from leash, shriek to the Four Winds, and scare peace for ever away. The Malefactor Adamites, gigantic in the Fall, so were the grim Brutam gusts which battled with them for blood. These too have their Ancestral bones, in many an Antre vast, and they both together perish, in the wild exultant Flood.

Thus, we demonstrate a fugitive but certain Element, new to our own Creation, if not the very antagonist by which it shall be at last annihilated; the Spirit of Evil, opposed to the existence of all things, not excepting its own Suicidal-self. Its effects upon the first unguarded Sons of Man, gifted as they were with incredible moral and physical energy, must have been awful. To find themselves deposed from Authority as gods, and their falling Empire invaded by frightful Swarms of Venomous Beings, must have torn their hearts with rage and remorse.

“Andax omniiim perpeti
Gens humana rust aper vetium nefas”

Old Ammon invented not the sublime Story of the Titanides. The First amongst the post-diluvian Nations, amidst silence and desolation, and the scarcely withdrawn tokens of God’s Wrath, it was related to him by Osiris in the Shadow of the Pillars which Seth gravened with now accomplished Prophecies, and the most precious lore of the departed Giants.

Fortified on every side, the Sacred Scriptures stand based upon Everlasting Truth. The personality of Matter, whatever it be Elohim created it. Light, whatever it be, Elohim next created. Life, whatever it be, created he last. He clothed the World vernally, gave to it Fish, then beasts, and appointed Man over them all. The heat which forced Ferns into Forests, and crowded them by millions, were fatal to any order of living of extinct creature: under a mitigated clime, the most nerveless animals would first come forth: they came, and there in the Transition Rocks, the Mollusc Orthoceratite, Spirifer, Priducta, Trilobites, and Myriad Radiated Creatures remain. The vertebrae in order followed: at last the, Earth was inhabited, and Man appointed Lord over all.

But a change came upon the happy scene. Let the strife of families, the factions of Empire, an armed conflicting world confess the dismal Cause.

Our Race was well nigh extinguished, and the primal carnivora destroyed quite: behold the wrecks of a Deluge strown innumerable everywhere “—quæ caret ora cruoere nostro? “ and hear the traditions of every People upon Earth, and the Scriptures. Too long has it been agreed to postpone these Holy Books, the Fountain of all true Philosophy. They withdraw the Curtain of Time, and by the Curse of Eve explain the Ruins of the World, revealing the sure footsteps of Jehovah. Through all His glorious works to the topmost, one ceaseless expression of unutterable goodness shines. From fallen Adam to the Flood Satanic fury rules. By this Golden Book of Books we decipher the momentous Fortunes of mankind to Eternity itself: Through Gulfs of molten blood battling with Hell and Death, and at last dashing the Kraaken Fiends over the walls of God’s wailing Creation, down, down unto the Abyss Tophet. But the Theme belongs to another occasion.

The Slough of Matter in which the moderns splash, subserves a Spectacle of which the world has tired before. The mechanical propensities of our Age vainly essay an argument which has no ground, and is opposed to the immortal instincts and habits of the Soul. The Times will surely come when all gross Theories of Matter shall be devoted to the Flames, and a second Othmahr decree for all Nations the everlasting destruction of the instruments by which the Spirit of our Race has been Carnalized and so nearly lost. The Grand Scheme of the matterless illimitable universe shall remain, like an old and massive Temple, or a vast Cathedral, upreared by Colossal Genii. continuous and changeless as Jehovah and co-eternal.
CHAPTER II.

OF THE GREAT SEA-DRAGONS, ICHTHYOSAURI.

The Historian of extinct Races of Animals, in the absence of comparison and other ordinary Rules upon which the Memoirs of Living Creatures are founded, not infrequently confines himself to the merest field of Anatomy, beyond which lie the Provinces of Doubt, which we invade and forage at our peril. And the cold Philosophy of the moderns has been always careful to authenticate only those Works in which the plain Tuscan Style is observed, to the sacrifice of all ornament rhetorical and extrinsie; Nevertheless the most general favorite Authors in Natural History, from Aristotle to Buffon downward, are those of the most enthusiastic disposition, which enliven their writings and fill them with charms. These studied Nature with Genius, pencilling her most beautiful attitudes and colors, changeful and fleeting though they be; disdaining to carve and gash her to pieces for the mean sake of counting them when it was done.

There is no subject, perhaps, within the vision of man about which so many fascinating objects revolve as ours, the Chronicle of the great Sea-dragons, which ruled the ridgy Deep, and sunk Empire and Life in the Profundity of pre-Adamite Times. The mere skeleton of a lost Genius, unsightly and incurios though it be apparently, is the precious and sole surviving Symbol of the most recondite Truths, and the Fulcrum of that ponderous lever by which only we can upheave them from the Abyss of Ages. The bony Outline of an extinct Monster is a faded Cartoon of Nature, by which we study abstractest Beauties, analyze the most subtle Conceptions, and revivify Matter itself. It is also the figure of a Moral Quantity, by which, sublimizing Time, we descry through his agitated Shadows the Elemental Order of Things in Heaven, and in the Earth. Hence the vital interest which attaches to fossil Organic remains, and their incalculable value in the Scale of Metaphysics when found. They weigh the World in a balance, authenticate some of the most obscure passages of the antique Faith, and resuscitate Memories which could have otherwise no Resurrection. By the Egyptian Monoliths, the Temple Bel, and the consent of old Gracia, and the Papuan Guinea; by the Round Towers of Ireland, and of India, and the Teuton Creed, we reach the Stones of Memorial of the Flood, whether at Stonehenge, or in Asia, or in America; by the pyramids of Guezah, the Cyclopean Abodes, and the Carcasses of annihilated Carnivore, we ascend the ante-diluvian Stream of years even to Eden; by these extinct Dragons we navigate the pre-Adamite Seas to their very Margin, and look, over the 'Edge of Matter into Chaos, lifting the Veil of Isis, metamorphosed as gods.

The physical relations which subsisted in the departed Saurian Nations are no less signal than the abstract ones; fitted exclusively for the Sea, which in our time has only a fabulous Serpent, these Taninn prove that the great Principle of Unity established throughout all the Creatures of the Earth, has had other adaptations than those of Modern date. They perpetuate a Design no longer in use, show a Retractive Power in the Act of blotting out an Amalekite Race, and furnish data by which to estimate the Figures of the most distant Times, through all the Normal Velocities to which the Almighty destined them. With such extraordinary Properties, Palaeontologists have been much puzzled to assimilate these fossil Remains with, the Classes of actual Beings. Half lizard, and half fish, the name Icthyosaurus expresses the words, but not the Idea which lurks within them. It is therefore only a conventional term, forced upon us by the rash attempt to ally Past and Present Races, living under two such alien Planets.

In our Memoirs it was mete to honour the distinguished Philosophers who commenced the History of these enigmatical Tribes, as far as consisted with the original facts alone in our possession. We therefore continued it under their own Title, and, pursuing the principle upon which it set forth to its just conclusion, coined names for the several skeletons we had acquired. The old specific cognomina, Tenuirostris, Platyodon, Intermedius, and Communis, were shown to be at variance, and quite inapplicable to the Species meant by them, and others offered instead. These new Names were protested on account of their length: they sinned also against the Greek canon of one subject and one predicate. But since every known Saurian Remain falls into its place under our System, we shall retain it; hoping to obviate all objection by dropping the prepositional 'in the paddle, leaving that to be always understood, and translating the compounds Oligostenus, Polyostinus, Strongylostinus, and Paramostinus of our memoirs from Specific to Generic terms. My seven perfect Skeletons, and the whole subsidiary Collection happily resolve themselves under these heads; and every other Relic that we have seen, but help to confirm the link. I appeal to the whole world if it be not better thus to distinguish them rather than by Proper Nouns, which at present mystify and Disgrace every horn-book on Natural History. It is true that Linnaeus, Latreille, and other worthies named certain Species after the discoverer, or after eminent Persons; but they did so only when the Character was absolutely unknown. Could they have foreseen the flagrant abuses to which the example led, that within a century the exception would actually depose the Rule, that example would have been so strictly guarded, that there would be now no occasion to deplore a practice so injurious to the dignity of Science, and the Taste of the Age in which we live. I hardly anticipate the immediate abnegation of the jargon by which these Sauri have hitherto recognised, but am content to abide the ordinary course of events, and even await the Coming Generation for that ingenuousness which may not be found in this.
Further, we propose to restore these Lost Tribes to a Kingdom of their own. Belonging to ages so infinitely removed from ours, squared confessedly, to a Creation for ever past and lost upon the most Intent principles in Nature, with no surviving analogue, their numeral is unknown. The vertebral sub-regna, mammalia, aves, reptilia, et pisces, severally reject them. They are the Jews of Creation, alone in the actual World, and peculiar to the One by-gone.

These unparalleled phenomena demand a Style and Title of their own. Throughout the Greek, and Latin, and all the derivative Languages living, float traditional notices of a supposed Chimera, under the term Dragon. Backing this word through the more ancient Semitic Tongues, we come at last to its root in the most ancient of all, the blessed Hebrew. There, in the Inspired Annals of Earth, we read of the Gedolim Taninim, the Great Sea-Serpents, the frightful Dragons of Dead Times, the long-lost Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosaurus, of which we treat.

REGNUM—Gedolim Taninim.—SUB-REGNUM—Ichthyosaurus. Genus—Oligoston. Species I.—Dentibus formosis, membrana sclerotica frustulis perpauca, palpebris crassis. Tab. II et VI Fig. 1. II. Dentibus adunicis et crassis, membrana sclerotica multiplici, palpebris levioribus. Tab. III, et V et VI. Figs. 2 et 3.

The huge Oligostinus of our former Memoirs, Plate III, substantiated the genus of our present theme. Until the discovery of that gigantic Skeleton, the paddles of Ichthyosaurus were remarkable for the number of their joints, if, indeed, we except the imperfect Rames of the Strongylostinus deposited in the Bristol Institution by Miss Anning. Prophetic I sought his vast quadrupedal oars, buried countless years under ten thousand tons of shale and stone, passing the bony keel and ribs out of which Time had so entirely shattered the Creature, its ancient Mariner and Occupant. The carcass, there a wreck, was stranded for ever; the oars which erst circumnavigated the round World, lay for ever idle, but their mission was not wholly at an end. Philosophy demanding other attributes beside that of size, whereby to classify things, the Paddles of this huge sea-beast instantly presented themselves. The old misnomer Platydont, named in the present Genus, gave place to features so entirely new, and it was generally admitted that a better generic Rule than the paddles offered could not be found.

The length of the Names published in the Memoirs alluded to, and the heretical doctrine which maintained them, alone I presume lost the support of that Great Geological Chief, without whose Countenance no clansman should hazard a step beyond his ranks.

In presuming to name Professor Buckland, I avail myself of the opportunity to plead that the objection was not the Purgatory which every New System in some or another Shape is doomed to pass. And it required no little perseverance and good fortune to test and reduce these names to the Classic Rule and Example which, here, now, I submit for my reader's approval.

And in reference to Specific distinctions, these Remains, wrapt in the Grave-clothes of many Ages, come before us inscribed like the mummies of old Ægypt, in a language abandoned evermore. The pre-human, like the latter Pharaohs, have perpetuated only the letter of their once dread Persons, in guises of stone. In vain did Belzoni conjecture after the personality of the gorgeous Sarcophagus which bears his name; and we as vainly strive after those physiological distinctions by which Natural Philosophy has separated and arranged each in his place the Orders of living creatures, so that, forsaken of the Common Aids, if ever a Scribe be justified in treating a foreign thing originally, these flinty Images of extinct Tongues present the best occasion. The several Relics which shall chance be found must therefore necessarily fix the name of the party who sets them forth. The Phoenician Signet of Phraah, discovered by Salt, passing to the hand of Mr. Sams, was shown me by that worthy Traveller as "Salt's:" and the Spoils gathered by Miss Anning, resolving themselves into our four Genera, shall still rejoice in that Name to the last.

We may Map out the broad Outline of these defunct Races, but the detail must chiefly consist in those accidents of persons by whom they are torn from Oblivion, and bequeathed to the Generations that follow. It will be seen eventually how absurd it were to Latinize the Name of Noach.

We proceed to the Oligostinus in Plate II. The minute description in our Memoirs of Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosaurus, of the sole Oligostinus then extant, Plate III, renders another anatomical précis here unnecessary, the build of both skeletons of the two plates being as one; they are also of the same celebrated Lyme, and were discovered by Miss Anning, to whom that celebrity is entirely due.

But there are many characteristic deviations which require Notice, beside the valuable fact that whereas the latter lies abdominal flat in Æneas, the first is seen thrown upon his side. We are thus favoured with a view of the Sclerotic, and a much more striking Contour of the head, in which still lurketh the ghost of a grim and greedy thing. The hyoide are also in their actual place, which was before Conjectural, and the teeth are much better shown.

The position of the Skeleton in Plate III, conceals the form of the Eye, which is so perfect in his Kindred Head of Plate V. The present Oligostinus boasts a no less complete optical shield; but it is composed of fewer pieces than the former, an indubitable evidence of a different Species, and one of the numberless reasons for our republication of some of the plates of our former work. This unlooked-for means serves to identify the head in the British Museum, published by Sir Everard Home, in the Phil. Trans. 1814, which has an eye framed like that of Plate V. Dr. Buckland remarks in his celebrated "Bridgewater Treatise." that in living animals these bony plates are fixed in the exterior or sclerotic coat of the eye, and vary in scope of action, by altering the convexity of the Cornea: by their retraction they press forward the front of the eye and convert it into a microscope; in resuming their position, when the eye is at rest, they convert it into a telescope." Perhaps also, as in the Chameleon, the bodily skin of the Taninim was glazed over part of the sclerotic, having an aperture in the centre, directed with the pupil at pleasure to any point, without moving the head, which was so carefully braced to the dorsum and chest that it could have had but little motion.
of its own. By such inductions we revive the habits of Creatures long vanished away, and recolor the ardent Monster fleeting through the expanse of Seas like lightning to his distant prey, with a lust quenchable alone in gore.

The teeth of Plate III, and V, go far to prove them of the same species, while those of Plate II, as clearly signify another. The Striae; are much more numbed, sharp, and diverse in the last; and the teeth are as elegant as the others are thick, hooked, and clumsy. A number, common to all the specimens, satisfactorily refers them to one Genus. Vide Plate VI. Figs, 1, 2, 3.

We have now to record a most curious fact relative to the Cervix of Ichthyosaurus. It was previously known that the Atlas and Dentatus were joined together by synarthrosis, and that minor differences of shape distinguished them from the other vertebra; But in 1835 Sir Philip Grey Egerton, Bart, procured some specimens from Miss Anning, with another remarkable feature. In a "Paper" read soon after, before the Geological Society, it is described as a "sub-vertebral wedge, placed transversely to the smaller diameter," underneath the occupit, Atlas, and Axis, and even one or more sub-vertebrae.

From a skeleton seen by, but alas! impossible for us to save, in the soft pulverulent lias Clay, we subsequently gathered the occipital, the ankylosed Atlas and Axis with their wedges, and the other bones, Plate VI. Fig. 4. The Paddles were also secured, and the black and jetty Jaws which lay there in the sacrificial clay, declared a Strongylodonus: We have also obtained a Strongylodonus from the village of Kein ton, in which there are three sub-vertebrae. On the other hand, Fig. 5 represents an Atlas and Axis, belonging to another species, the former of which alone has a face for the wedge. Fig. 6 represents an Atlas and Axis, and Fig. 7 the cervical apparatus of a skeleton in my collection copied by Sir Philip Egerton.

Sir Philip Egerton therefore conjectured rightly that "modifications in the forms and proportions of the cervical apparatus, would probably be found in animals of different species." In how many varieties they were possessed, it may require several years to ascertain, the region in which they exist being almost always obscured by the overlying Skull, the pachycephal and the ribs; and it is impossible to detach them from the skull. Of the latter, the occipital, while the persistance of style in both plates is valuable, and I shall carry it on in the Chronicles of the Great Sea-serpents, until I am enabled to carry inductions through Sir E. Home's, and the head of our Plate V, of the most interesting kind.

The fragment of Plate IV, is the only example of Scapula belonging to this Race of Giants, save a detached joint thus in the two sub-vertebrae species, Plate II, and III, but an enormous vertebral column of the Oligostius, found by Miss Anning in 1835, and deposited in the British Museum, enables us to add that this Genus claims at least one if not more of these sub-vertebral wedges.

The comparative disproportion of the head, and the fragile spine of Ichthyosaurus, demanded a number of contrivances by way of balance, of which these sub-vertebrae are one. The conjunction of the Atlas and Axis is followed up in the next three, and in some instances four, five, six, and seven vertebra by flattened nices to prevent taxation; and the fossa: for the ribs are planted at the anterior margin of the bone itself; so that the rib, projecting with its muscular braces is thrown in all its gravity upon the next anterior vertebra. The spinous apophyses, too, contributed by articulated, with the locking into one another; and the Sternal apparatus, placed to receive and enlarged to bear the shock of any emergency, still further guard and protect the spine from the chances alluded to.

These sub-vertebral wedges, then, are but one of the many forethoughts by which Nature compensated herself, although in their degree indispensable for the well-working of the machine, amongst the ruins of which they are found.

Sir Philip Egerton has the undoubted right of discovery, although the diligent present themselves to my notice first. In page 31 of the Memoirs before mentioned, the body of the hyoides is described as "a solid disk," which was none but a wedge. The mistake arose from my finding a like bone exactly between the hyoidal appendices in the subject of Plate XVIII, in describing which, page 34, it is remarked that "we were in doubt of the osseous disc, and the two Styloid processes accompanying it, until we found them at the posterior third of the inferior jaws, which situation identifies them as the hyoides." The Tympana too, of the same exact size and shape, only that they are hollow, contributed to the error, which I am happy to correct through the better fortune of Sir Philip, who has taken so much interest in, and pursued Geology with deserved reputation and success.

Forty-four dorsal vertebra: belong to both skeletons, although they have thicker bodies in that of Plate II. The vertebrae are sunk in pytaitaceous matter, impossible to detach; indeed the whole Skull was so enclosed in this inconvenient substance, that Miss Anning declared incapable to do nothing with it. However, six of the long days of June from daybreak until dark were spent by myself and a stone-cutter over the head alone, during which we expended a Magazine of chisels, wore out their steel, broke and flung them away. But the mallet resounded, nor did the fiery sparks follow in vain; not in vain did we both toil with all our skill, and a Zeal which nothing but success could slake. The teeth, the hyoides, the sclerotica, the magnificent skull appeared; the dorum, the tail, the ribs, the pelvis, the paddles, the, at last grand whole, distinct and relation signify its own. The teeth, the vertebrae in shape, and no less the humeri, the femora, the pelvis; the sclerotic in number, and the tout ensemble all together, while the persistence of style in both specimens, consigns them to a common Genus, and even enables us to carry inductions through Sir E. Home's, and the head of our Plate V, of the most interesting kind.

The fragment of Plate IV, is the only example of Scapula belonging to this Race of Giants, save a detached joint thus in the two sub-vertebrae species, Plate II, and III, but an enormous vertebral column of the Oligostius, found by Miss Anning in 1835, and deposited in the British Museum, enables us to add that this Genus claims at least one if not more of these sub-vertebral wedges.

The comparative disproportion of the head, and the fragile spine of Ichthyosaurus, demanded a number of contrivances by way of balance, of which these sub-vertebrae are one. The conjunction of the Atlas and Axis is followed up in the next three, and in some instances four, five, six, and seven vertebra by flattened nices to prevent taxation; and the fossa: for the ribs are planted at the anterior margin of the bone itself; so that the rib, projecting with its muscular braces is thrown in all its gravity upon the next anterior vertebra. The spinous apophyses, too, contributed by articulated, with the locking into one another; and the Sternal apparatus, placed to receive and enlarged to bear the shock of any emergency, still further guard and protect the spine from the chances alluded to.

These sub-vertebral wedges, then, are but one of the many forethoughts by which Nature compensated herself, although in their degree indispensable for the well-working of the machine, amongst the ruins of which they are found.

Sir Philip Egerton has the undoubted right of discovery, although the diligent present themselves to my notice first. In page 31 of the Memoirs before mentioned, the body of the hyoides is described as "a solid disk," which was none but a wedge. The mistake arose from my finding a like bone exactly between the hyoidal appendices in the subject of Plate XVIII, in describing which, page 34, it is remarked that "we were in doubt of the osseous disc, and the two Styloid processes accompanying it, until we found them at the posterior third of the inferior jaws, which situation identifies them as the hyoides." The Tympana too, of the same exact size and shape, only that they are hollow, contributed to the error, which I am happy to correct through the better fortune of Sir Philip, who has taken so much interest in, and pursued Geology with deserved reputation and success.

Forty-four dorsal vertebra: belong to both skeletons, although they have thicker bodies in that of Plate II. The vertebrae are sunk in pytaitaceous matter, impossible to detach; indeed the whole Skull was so enclosed in this inconvenient substance, that Miss Anning declared incapable to do nothing with it. However, six of the long days of June from daybreak until dark were spent by myself and a stone-cutter over the head alone, during which we expended a Magazine of chisels, wore out their steel, broke and flung them away. But the mallet resounded, nor did the fiery sparks follow in vain; not in vain did we both toil with all our skill, and a Zeal which nothing but success could slake. The teeth, the hyoides, the sclerotica, the magnificent skull appeared; the dorum, the tail, the ribs, the pelvis, the paddles, the, at last grand whole, distinct and relation signify its own. The teeth, the vertebrae in shape, and no less the humeri, the femora, the pelvis; the sclerotic in number, and the tout ensemble all together, while the persistence of style in both specimens, consigns them to a common Genus, and even enables us to carry inductions through Sir E. Home's, and the head of our Plate V, of the most interesting kind.

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ately apply to them for the square of the Circle, the key to the arrow-headed characters of Bactriana, and other such mysteries; but this worthless litter now lies in the British Museum, in a costly Cabinet, daubed with grease and sulphate of lime. I defy the reproach of personality. I know nothing of attending circumstances, whether of error in judgment, or of vanity in a donor, or of mistake in all; but there the thing lies, for which, having spared no time, no money, I would not, nor would any one else, bestow a dot.

With this nameless exception, then, and the head of PLATE V, all the known remains of the Genus Oligostinus are due to Miss Anning. They stand thus:

Species I. Oligostinus. PI. II. . . Found by Miss Anning.
Vertebral Column, alluded to by Sir P. Egerton.
Geol. Trans.
Scapula, &c of PL IV Oligostinus. PI. III
Sir Everard Home's Head. Vide Phil. Trans.
Head PI. V A person, name unknown.

It may be observed that Mr. Johnson, of Bristol, has the Cranium of an Oligostinus, which was found by Miss Anning several years ago at Lyme, because it has been the appui for many a tale on account of its large eye sockets. It possesses no specific identification whatever.

CHAPTER III.

GENUS POLYOSTINUS. ΠΟΛΥΟΣΤΙΝΟΣ. Multis ossibus in palmipedibus.
Species I. Capito magnus, dentibus grandibus ac paucis pectore solidissimo. Tab. VII. IX. et X.
Species II. Compago minore el debilore. Tab. VIII. et XI.

By a singular fatality the Communis of the old names proves the rarest Genus of all. The most incessant enthusiasm of pursuit, for more than ten years, from Lyme Northward through all the Lias Coffers in England, has obtained us but one "hark hallo;" and the one Conquest that followed it. We described the strenuous effort and the happy fortune by which that difficult animal was secured, in our Memoirs, and republish here the Plate VII. as the trophy of both.

Beside the recorded generic thickness of head, comparative paucity of large dumpy teeth, eternal strength, and above all the paddles; Plate VII. presents a fact, which instead of being accidental to the individual, us at first supposed, belongs to the universal sub-Regnum itself.

We purposely avoided any comparison between the Cervical apparatus of these lost Races and our own contemporary Cetacea, in the last Chapter, that we might illustrate by the most remarkable contrasts the amazing heterodoxy which obtains in the former; drive them from any community whatever from all Creatures of the Adamic and post-diluvian epocha, and reinstate them the more triumphantly in the solitary pre-eminence of Time and of Being, to which they advanced so many substantial claims.

Of the neck,—the ankylosis and other modes by which the preponderating head is balanced with the attenuated spine, finds analogies in many actual whales; so does the tail of these astonishing Taninim, square with the peculiar attribute of that belonging to the Libyan Boa; and was, perhaps, imposed upon the former, as upon the last, for a moral purpose, lest the strong should subdue the weak, and at length extinguish the Pacific Kingdoms of Creation.

The Cunning and cruel Snake, whetting his fangs with poison in treacherous lair, and following with malignant eye the unconscious creature of his lust, moves but at his peril. Beside the Conservative instinct, the victim in which he anticipates Death and a banquet of blood, is assured of one other chance for life, extorted from the Destroyer himself. The least motion of his voluminous Coils, even a shiver of rage, as the deer, or the dangerous Lion retires, or of fiery hope when he crosses the fatal Circle of the demon in wait, betrays him too soon. The withered tail rattles, and the Hanabash, cursed with the terrible moral so well understood by the creature to whom Jehovah addresses it, drags it ever behind him with what disappointment, hate, and confusion he may.

Ichthyosauri have a tail with a like condition, modified to the element in which they swim. In the Sea-serpent before us, the lateral spines, called "chevrons," cease from the upper third of the twenty sixth caudal vertebra, and thereafter occupy the inferior facet of the receding bones, nearly to their extremity. The Spinoi or neuroapophyses, also disappear from, about, the thirty-third vertebra behind the one mentioned; a complete revolution in shape occurs also at the same time. The first mentioned and three following vertebra elongate, square themselves, and contract in size; their articular concavities nearly vanish, and the rim itself occupies half the paries of the bone. The anterior lateral spines which occupy the costal axis of the vertebra, from the Pelvis backward, scarcely distinguishable from the floating ribs, either in size or form, graduate slowly until they reach the limit before mentioned. At that point the tail really commences, the chevron bones arming it with all the cocygeal attributes from the first. The spinoi chord, no longer issuing its wonted filament to processes nowhere found, pursues its paralysed way over the following bones, and then ceases altogether, leaving the last from ten to twenty vertebra lifeless.

Nor was this condition of the tail without advantage to the party himself; the auditory nerve of the prey he chased, may have been strung to the warning vibrations of this drooping and finally dead member of the Hellhound in pursuit, as are the ears of living creatures to warn them upon the serpent's track white the declination
in which the tail is always found more surely prove that it was naturally so prehensile, and possessed of a lateral motion peculiarly its own. Of what rudder-like use a settled force and a motive power like this were to the animal they were given, our navies tell. The more the momentum of a vessel agrees with its passivity, the better its sum-total weight of ballast and all harmonizes with her sailing powers, the more perfect she is esteemed, while a perfect control of the helm is indispensable to the safety of the ship.

That Nature which errs only through Ethics, over which the Almighty has placed alone His Holy Name, doubtless fixed all her antagonistic Forces with the most exquisite Acumen composing them to the New Law even of Evil itself. The far Otahitian, to whom an abstract idea were Greek, has carved an oar, to be seen in the British Museum, after the fashion of that of a Sea Saurus, and were our Naval Architects to discover the secret of that proportion which is observable throughout the Creatures of the Deep, soon should we skim the waves as swiftly, as lightly as the primordial Taninim; vast paddles rotatory by steam for fins, merchandise for body, the ship itself for the steering and ballasting tail, and the wit of man, as of God, ruling the whole.

It has been observed before that the Polyostinus is distinguished generally by a bulk swelling at the expense of slenderness. The Oligostinus in all his size, might, à priori, have been expected to stretch out his limbs to an egregious length, wherewith to gather up the waters and rule them at his will; But the Polyostinus retires within himself; his head, his back, his members are all sturdy, fitted to pounce upon his quarry, rather than to speed it from any great distance, and fairly to hunt it down. Amongst the Sauri he stands the strong; none had such stubborn teeth, none such lusty limbs; he was the bull-dog of his furry-kind, black, Sullen, and ugly, fierce, glutinous, and decisive, and a Gorgon terror to every hapless Creature that caught his glassy eye.

Sir Everard Home, and Doctor Buckland spent them-
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The existence near the Condyle of the left jaw of a Coraline, which is the only one I have ever seen in the lane of Somerset, proves that this Dragon lay naked of flesh, and of everything else a long time upon the Ocean Floor. So that had the sea been but ever so little disturbed after the eruption of the animal gases, the unprotected joints of the remaining carcase must have been removed out of the order in which they are found upon their stony bier; we are at a loss to say whether the Seas they Emperored were swept by Simoons and Tornado, or left to lull themselves for ever. Perhaps, as the Brahmins tell, the earlier conditions of Matter, before they formed so many complicated alliances, indulged in alternate fits of rage, lashing the Waves into Mountains, and of repose, realizing the slumbers of the dead.

There are many other parasitic shells heaped upon the surrounding marl, also indicative of the denuded situation of the skeleton for a considerable time. And yet the curious and most rare position of the snout, which rises at an angle of 45 degrees would seem to deny the fact. But the combinations of vapor generated within side of the belly, and the oscillations of the Sea, are difficult to arrange and harmonize with the presentations of many Sauri; so that we have ceased to speculate upon the forces by which and in what manner this, or that, or the other dragon was broken up, violated, and cast at length away. Reviewing our whole Collection, and the circumstances in which individual parts of it are found upon their stony bier, we are at a loss to say whether the Seas they Emperored were swept by Simoons and Tornado, or left to lull themselves for ever. Perhaps, as the Brahmins tell, the earlier conditions of Matter, before they formed so many complicated alliances, indulged in alternate fits of rage, lashing the Waves into Mountains, and of repose, realizing the slumbers of the dead.

The Paddles of the Strongylostinus mark him in the most decided manner. The first individual, which was obtained by Miss Anning, and deposited in the Bristol Philosophical Institution, although very imperfect, and a still less satisfactory fragment in the British Museum, determined that fact.

The Plate before us represents a far more complete remain than either; and substantiates new Generic pretensions, not only the Paddles, and the ekeous snout, but the spine and ribs assuming a form entirely distinct from that of all the other Tanimin. Nor is that all; the snout itself thickened comparatively with that of Plate XIII, indicates a different Species, while the pelvis and the posterior paddles, compared with those of Plates XV, and XVI, enhances the fact. As for the beautiful head and the snout of Plate XIV. their teeth seem too heavy to allow them to belong to the genus Strongylostinus, and yet we can refer them to none other with a better grace.

Traversing the whole Physiological Circle of these great Sea-dragons, we cannot avoid speculating upon the Sexes, impossible though it now be that they should for certain be ascertained. We have measured their brain, recovered their eyes, their ears, their respiratory and digestive Systems, but this escapes us still.

We prove the maximum length of the Oligostinus to have approached one hundred feet, by a precious relic in the British Museum, that it never exceeded twelve feet in the cir. of the body, and but seldom reached even ten; and by the Crocodile and analogous Sauri make a safe guess at the age of these Tanimin; but the identification of sexes with the once sexual condition nearly elude us quite.

We have been haunted by an idea, generated by so subtle a process, and vitalized by inductions so frail, that it is impossible to set them all forth, that the Strongylostinus of our theme is none other than the male Oligostinus. Their paddles are designed alike, and the narrow radius they subscribe in the former comparatively is made up in a great measure by adaptations for an almost inconceivable swiftness: the head is sharpened forth, the chest flattened, the oars lengthened and thinned out, the spine closely locked together, and the hind paddles widened to check, when need be, the arrow-flight of the monster to which they belong.

If Ichthysaurus were oviparous, of which there seems scarcely a doubt, and if their instincts inclined them to the Fiscal Races rather than to Reptiles, the impression of their ova may have been effected after the manner of Fishes. An amphibious Creature like this would naturally seek the Shallows in which to spawn, and the ovarian vent placed, (as we have seen in the Last Chapter) so far posteriorly, aided the intention. The huge Oligostinus may, therefore, have dropped her eggs many feet above the level to which otherwise she could not come, over which the attenuated Strongylostinus easily passed in the act of vitalizing; them.

The other co-sized Dragons were fitted to purposes and a speed, sufficient for themselves; and it comes up not one half to that bestowed upon their rival the Strongylostinus. Supposing the Oligostinus his she-mate, the gift at once explains itself, and clears up entirely the Theory upon which our Nomenclature stands. None other fact, or even suspicion of one, in the whole range of our Sauroliology, having ever questioned this Theory in the least, and so many reasons being found in favour of the sexual distinctions argued for, I maybe permitted to add, that it gathers strength on every side, and approximates to a solution entirely satisfactory to our mind.

SYNOPSIS OF STRONGYLOSTINUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Strongylostinus: Pl. XIII, Found by the Author.</th>
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<tr>
<td>II.</td>
<td>Head Pl. XIII</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two Heads. Pl. XIV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Slab. Pl. XV</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fragment Pl. XVI Bristol Institution, Found by</td>
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<tr>
<td>Species</td>
<td>Miss Anning</td>
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<td>Fragment, Brit. Mus.</td>
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CHAPTER V.

GENUS PARAMECOSTINUS

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Now beg to present my Reader the most perfect of all the Annals belonging to Ichthyosauri. The labors by which we are enabled to recover and perpetuate them are not unlike those of Sir Humphrey Davy, over the papyri of the long entombed Cities of old Latium. Striving against the destructive weapons of Time, of fire, of earth, of air, and water, with the most delicate tests and a finished acumen, he was enabled to save the Hearts of some Cinerous Rolls of Herculaneum and Pompei, so marvellously transmitted to these latter Days. In the unequal contest many an invaluable Record, over which the pale Scribe wasted his midnight lamp eighteen hundred years ago, little dreaming of the fate which, alas! awaited them both, faded into Oblivion, with all its vainly coveted, and maybe more precious than ruby page. The rust of Time sometimes neutralizing itself, left a trophy for his antagonist, who often in his turn outdoing himself, surrendered spoils already won.

The same Time which so ruthlessly assails the works and the monuments of man, was inspired with a zeal for the perpetuation of those which belong to the gods, really startling. The Vasty Cycles of Days since the Avatar of Time have been consumed by him but for this end. The Populations of the Old World seem to have lived that Time might solemnize their obsequies, and Stamp the forged Seal of Eternity upon their bones. The acts and Inscriptions of man dissolve into thin air, while the Races co-temporary with adolescent Time continue for our own and the years that are To Come. To touch the former with a breath is to blot them out, while the last are hermetically soldered down with stone, and confined in the Centres of the Earth: so carefully guarded are they from rude and sacrilegious hands, that to unroll the Cerements which bind them, it requires the most peculiar and subtle Genius of Skill, and fingers tipped each one with a most energetic soul.

But Time lias a limit set upon his work: the magnificent Nature he is ever busy to perpetuate in all her rising, heaving, proud, but sinking, and dying forms, and as extremes often meet, so the Papyri and the Taninum have both lost their cases and externals, by the indisposition and contempt of Time on the one side, and his officious-ness on the other.

In cutting the hard, intractible limestone from the involved Skeleton, how many muscles, nerves, nay, the the Sensorium in which life couched and subsisted, is destroyed, as effectually as the wisdom and wit of man for ever lost in those lamented Scrolls. True, there continue the traces, the stains of the once living flesh and blood, in the softened and discolored stone; sometimes even the fibres of the more cartilaginous tissues faintly present themselves; and the stomachic muculae not unfrequently remain, but the fashion and bodily shape is fled, leaving Moloch naked in all his deformity.

II. The mere indices of these things, because they have a silent moral, are interesting for that very reason. The sublime discloses itself only in the silence of which we speak, when, by the most stupendous Efforts of intellect, by the revivification of Worlds, by the inhabitation thereof of all the Creatures which the laboring Soul can re-articulate, we stand in a Presence which has not, nor ever shall have one sympathy with ourselves; those Worlds, those antipodal Populations, that Presence passionless, and silent dead; I say the instruments of a few bones verify a Sublimity before which no man can stand unappalled.

The present is so absolutely little when compared with the dread Past, that these Reliquiae derive an Attribute from that circumstance to our Faculties as absolutely infinite. The sight expires in the distance, our minds are lost in the sweeping landscape, eternity for an horizon, and the god of the scene silence all.

The Philoscopical Ancients lived and acted under this impression, carrying it on to the Unknown Future, in which alone they could substantially realize a Personality. And in this mood did they achieve for themselves that Greatness which leave the Moderns pigmies, because we lack the mental dignity by which it was accomplished. For this reason, likewise, have the Moderns, although studious of forms, overlooked the Living Soul of Things, disenchanting Life, and encumbering the Earth with the most uninteresting Automatons imaginable. No Fawn, no Satyr now, no shy Nymph frequents the grove, no Dion courses the resounding hills; all, all is infrequent, and desolate all. Enthusiasm, without which there can be no sense of Truth, nor of fitness and beauty, seems as extinct as the Sea-Dragons Which here inspire it: their strange eloquent Remains bespeak a Chord in our breast, which vibrates only to the Master Touch: the subtle and jealous gods of the vast Promontory of Time start at the well-known sound, They seize, They seize me wholly.
and if the oracle, O Reader, be ambiguous, blame thy Fortune in escaping the Pythonic faror, with its extinct but exhausting delirium, its shiver, and wild eccentric fate.


The Spirit of Prophecy is not dead. Nor do I consider it at all remarkable, that these waking dreams preceded the discovery of two Taninim, about to be introduced. A subject must be esteemed for its consequences, and who can sum the Legions of thoughts, which these Sea-dragons evoked, and shall yet evoke in our own and many other breasts? Were we to abandon ourselves to all the more occult influences of the mind, it would be elevated to a pitch of sensibility, and an acuteness of perception unspeakable; nor do I shun, to awav a habit, which raises one above the mortal conditions of Earth, if indulged in a right Royal Heart. And what, quotha, are the Skeletons which interest us so much, stripped of the habiliments of Eld; or what is Kingly Power without the symbols, or the Heavens themselves without the Dominions which rule them withal.

But we must refer our reader to the Paramecostinus of Plate XVII, which supersedes a former one, (Vide Memoirs.) rejected because the right paddle of the subject it was taken from is improperly reversed. This beautiful Skeleton was found at our neighbouring Street, and the following extracts, copied from my note-book, explain the attendant circumstances. 1835. June. John Steel announced a fossil, lying in Mogs quarry, in the thick marl, twenty-feet from the surface. Proceeding to extricate it, we ascertained that the tail was covered by one of the facets of the quarry, which cannot be removed for some months.

John Mog, personally, not unlike Æ sor, hobbling into the pit, and touching his hat with a useful crutch, requested to speak. "Your Servant, Zir, how much be I to have vor the faussil?"

"You know, John, I always give the master one half."

"Very well, Zir. Thank’ee Zir."

"We must leave the tail here, until we work out the ground."

"Yis, Zir."

"Thursday, Friday, Tuesday. Dissected the Skull and Snout, laying bare an eye deeply sunk in his socket, and identifying it with the Paramecostinus in the British Museum by the shape and number of the teeth, the well-defined nasal foram and the general outline.

"Wednesday, the Cervix, if indeed Ichthysosauria have any, rather the Atlas, axis and a few succeeding vertebrae, are in the right place: but few-sub-vertebral wedges are overlaid. Θ Thursday. Encountered a stubborn group of the marginal rays of the anterior paddle, theretofore thought to be spines of a Cidaria, which I greatly regretted, but was obliged to sacrifice. Θ Friday. Developed that beautiful pectoral paddle. Θ Monday, Tuesday, to Saturday. The Seventh and five succeeding dorsal vertebrae are twisted around, presenting the spinous fossa, although luckily the apophyses themselves continue in almost their proper place: the entire twelve are but little distinguished from one another in shape, but they decrease somewhat in size receding from the occuput. The Eternal arch and the whole subsidiary Apparatus is remarkably strong, and perfect.

"July, Tuesday, Wednesday. The anterior long ribs dive right through the matrix, an unusual accident; and the phalanges of the left paddle are dislocated by the superincumbent pressure which occasioned it.

"Saturday, Monday, to Wednesday night. Now then the Spine enlarges, the-apophyses spread, the ribs resume their order, and chocolate colored lamine indicate the once abdominal fluids. The gradually emerging beauty of this Tanin so possesses me, that I shall order my lamp, to enjoy another sight of it before I go to bed.

"Thursday. Fortieth vertebra, forty first, second, third, superb! Θ Friday and Saturday. There are the posterior paddles, like all that preceded them, perfect. The Pelvis maintains its articulation, as did the Sternum before it. Here also the spine acquires its maximum long diameter."

The quarry having been at length worked farther back, the journal continues. Oct. Friday. An entirely new feature presents itself: the receding caudal Vertebrae disclose double spinous apophyses, mounting the twenty bones anterior to the first break of the tail. No suspicion of any such thing ever occurred to us; no Ichthysaurus ever indicated such a fact before. All the other individuals known have these spines a little thicker perhaps than any of their relations, but the difference leads to a mere nothing. Here we have bifid spines, for what purpose? to support a fin? Now a fin comprises, besides its erector and compressor muscles, at least a cartilaginous, if not an osseous frame, upon which to exercise them: other more perishable substances than cartilage have left marks behind them in this very marl. In one or two Saurians we have even fancied that their skin, their mere outline of Form were indicated, if not to the eye, to that manual touch with which they certainly came in contact."

In the elaboration of several tails we have been unable to detect the least proof of a fin. Nothing due to our chisel ever advanced pretension to any such member.

The multiplication of those apophyses then was manifestly appointed as A balance, the cushion of flesh which clothed them assisting its consequence, mounted probably by a gatricular fringe which may have been lengthened and widened out upon the tail, as shown in our frontispiece.

We have remarked the nearly equal size of the first twelve vertebrae of the back. In the several genera, nay, even in all other Species, it will most probably be found, that the so-called neck is more attenuated than that of the
THE BOOK OF THE GREAT SEA-DRAGONS

Person now before us. His Cranium is very enlarged as is also the other fore-part of the Skeleton. His aspect is stiff, fore-right, and heavy, demanding a compensation of some decided sort. Those double processes afford it at once, while the whole tail, auxiliary by its just proportions of chevron and other joints, refute the idea of a proper fin, by the equilibrium in which it holds the dependant whole, as well as supersedes the necessity of one by the curious rudder-like provision which we have demonstrated in it before.

Here then we have another Ichthyosaurus with a novelty of contrivance peculiarly his own; so marked a difference is itself sufficient to particularize him from all others upon Record. There are individuals which at first blush appear to be the same identical Species, disproved by this very singularity. In truth, it has never occurred to us to find a Saurian undistinguished from any preceding one, either in the number or figure of certain bones. A Species starts forth in every new individual, or at least differences, which belong, no doubt, occasionally to the Sexes themselves, about which we can of course only speculate.

The skeleton before us is altogether unique: he is the longest ever found in Somerset, and lacks not one the least joint; His color remains unaltered by the lapse of many Ages; his Animus survives in his attitude, discoursing most eloquent things. The Profound, the Solitary Seas he haunted, the brassy Skies he saw, the Soulless, Black World he ruled, the unjoyous Votes, the unchecked lusts this dragon knew, crowd their Memories in his ribbed boat, which, tracking the wide Oceans of years, lands them at last on our Modern Shores.

The fleeting Generation of Men shall pass away and be forgotten, while the Lessons which these awful retrospections teach them will continue until the absorption of all Truth by the ONE, innate, adorable Being, the Almighty Lord and Father of us all.

SECT. II

SPECIES II. Capite adancto, phalangbus palmipedium porrectis.
Tab. XX.

The Dragon to which we now solicit attention, Plate XX, fulfilled the second Dream of the god: whether Pythius, or the one within us, or whatever god he be, the promise was fulfilled.

It is but the paralysis of a single nerve which shifts us out from the Real World, leaving us at the mercy of the wingless Sciolists, who know not where to find its threshold. If we could return to our original Selves, we should recover an Innateness identified with the whole Universe of Mind, and Magazines of Processes reaching to the very Limits of all created Intelligences.

The prepossessions, the instincts of our Soul, are faint and dubious by reason of a disease which many of the later Doctors have sorely misunderstood. They have sought excuses in the Constitution instead of in the Crime of 'The Fickle Age,' forgetting they have no Diploma, prescribe, in the old Pagan Formula, only nostrums to a credulous Race.

The Scriptures of History and of Heaven, which, vindicating Jehovah, set forth the Evil under which Creation groans, are put aside because they belie the Vanities of a Fickle Age. The grand Powers of Thought conferred upon the primal Adam, as auxiliary by its just proportions of his descendants, in their several, but alas! waning degrees, are denied to the Fathers of Nations, and in pretense appropriated by a Posterior of which they are ashamed. Genesis first, because it insists upon the to us super-human proportions of Adam, and the qualifications of men, in Sciences whose names even are now unknown, no less than in all those lower Mechanical and Material arts about which the Moderns plume themselves so absurdly; and all History is next declared, which, treating of demigods, and of their Monuments, refute the vain glory of our degenerate Times.

Utility is the European watchword, while but few know the use of anything whatever in alliance with the higher Interests of Mankind. The most common but invaluable instruments of the Adamities for Communion with the glorious Worlds, from which we are cut so entirely off, are the least valued of any which they have bequeathed. They have rusted so long, that to 'The Masses' they are almost irrevocably lost; while the Socrates and his attendant Fanatism, which sometimes appear, encounter the scornful finger, and the bitter hemlock of Society at every turn.

The sub-stratum of visible Man conceals ores of Virtues beyond price, which are, nevertheless, overlooked and continuned by the mean Spirit of the present Hour. Those who diligently study and work them out, enrich themselves thereby, while the varieties of " Jaspar, Sapphire, Chalcedony, Emerald, Sardonyx, Sardius, Chrysolite, Beryl, Topaz, Chromeas, Jacinth, and Amethyst, and Pearl, and pure Gold," are each one of them sufficient for him who happily obtains it.

This Tanin then, of which we so caught the projecting Shadows, was found at Street. In the bottom of the quarry eighteen feet deep, in a thick bed of Lias Stone, there it lay long unused and lost. But the Fates brought a workman to the spot, showed him a glimpse of the Dragon, of which they had taken such care, and directed Mercury to our door.

How did the poor man's heart flutter, responsive to mine audible own, when first I saw the tomb in which my Treasure lay hid. Poor simplistic; his quivered harshly to the blow of Dives, ours vibrated to an Angel hand. Would we realize a Picture of a pure Idea and its antipode, there it stood; a 'storm incited by Ignorance and want, resolving itself into a shower of pell on the one hand; a Hurricane of thought, personless and Ideal sweeping joyfully, on the other, originating in one and. the same point, the Dragon.

Specifically this Ichthyosaurus differs from any other in our Collection of this Genus, the most on account of his head; while the paddles are distinguished from those of the preceding Skeleton by more elongated phalanges. The tail presents the general Rule in all its force, while the are it describes is apparently less significant than the break, and sudden twist which mark the Polyostinus of Plate VII.

The space between the Skull add the left paddle preserves traces of an animal matter so remarkable, that I have no doubt the whole abdominal contents were poured forth upon that spot; the moment our chisel came there, it
sank through several thin laminæ not unlike charred leaves, which we probed with the most intense concern. Curious suspicions of Mamæae began to haunt us. We had hitherto supposed Sea-Dragons oviparous, and now we are tempted to think them mammal. The head here seems enlarged for the maternal dispositions, and if ever Dragon were destroyed in the hey-day of life, this is the one.

The absence of embryo Shapes in the Pelvis of all known Taninim, and of the decisive marks near the Head adverted to, disprowe nothing, as none other Skeletou extant proves so vigorous an adultereness, and so sudden a death as the one under our notice. The extremity of the upper snout, or rather the superior maxillaria, have been broken off as against a rock; but whatever the cause of death, it was more instant Ansinæ are ours. In this Tanim especially, we confront Life everywhere; the head is instinct with life, the eye glowers in his socket, as if in the last agony, the spirit twists to and fro, as though the nervous filaments still tortured its extremest parts, one foot digs into the ground, and the lashing tail wraiths under the general throe, agitating for Death. His heart-strings were wrenched asunder so quickly, so rudely, that Death failed to stamp his Effigies upon the resisting bones, and so left them there at the bottom of the Seas, lifeful, despite himself, as we behold them here. Peradventure in a conceit, Time thereupon proceeded to mumify this Sea-Dragon with more than peculiare Care; his cement cloths he fabricated in the strongest stone, and folded them up over him innumerable, as though expecting some at last recurring. Cycle of years, when the wandering Ghost should return again to his inviolate home, and re-enact the life of which it had been before the crimine Stage.

If not only the Pharaohs, but prophetic Time have been careful so much, in that hope of resuscitation in which universal Earth of old did verily comfort herself; how know ye, O lector! that some God Galvani is not at hand to restore all things in accomplishment of the Primaæval Philosophy, before which our body, soul, and spirit bow-eth down evermore. "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first Resurrection, Nin. Revelations, xx. 6."

Who but Scharf could so portray the naked bones of these Taninim, and seize their metaphysical aspect, so tenuous and shy! With an eye to the outward form, certes, and a sense known only to Genius of artistic dexterity, man may scan them without a thought, and contemplate them because they perceive not one thought in them. But the metaphysician who sees more in square than its four sides, and who reasons to infinity with the figures which avail ordinary men only for dullest arithmetic, is above them. True, the Souls of the Masters were attuned to vocalities as lofty, and Ideas as grand as are those of whom we speak, if, indeed they were not of all men the greatest, and their works do follow them.

Lithography, although a humble handmaid, is very useful to the fine arts, and more especially to Science. In geology, above all she seizes the lithological character of fossil remains, and describes both it and the original themselves in the happiest manner. Covered with parasitic ostraæ and other shells, the Taninim, so beautifully drawn by Scharf in Plate XXI, was disinterred in the same year as was the last Skeleton. It was an extraordinary occurrence finding two Saurians in one year, the average of more than ten years yielding not one annually. And yet one of our most accomplished geologists believe that these Sea-Dragons are as the sand on the Sea-shore. "Est modus in rebus! sunt certi denique fines."

The Street, as are all the neighbouring quarries of limestone, verge with a thick bed of external Clay, verging into compact limestone, with marly partings. In the hardest, and most desirable Stratum of Marl, sixteen feet deep, lay this magnificent Skeleton. In the act of casting away a piece, the laborer detected a section of the tail, and gave me immediate notice of the fact. The slab was replaced, the Skeleton traced out, the circumjacent lias squared, cut out of the pit, and translated to Sharpsham the same day.

The mark I usually strike at first is a pectoral paddle; next day a paddle came forth, attached to its Great Tribe, the Paramecostimus, but demanding a Family Name of its own.

The Scapulae; are in their place, the right humerus, radius, and ulna thrown upward, and all the phalanges scattered round about them. The Skull, filled by many of these dislocated bones, gradually emerges, an obtuse snout appears, both snout and head having a contour differing from all others in my Cabinets. The teeth are almost hidden by the intermaxillary and other bones, the head having fallen almost upon its vertex, so as to show much of its internal order interiorly. The spine, obscured at first by many overlying ribs, yields; it breaks, but the
spinous apophyses hold on upon one another until the vertebras, recovering themselves, proceed more orderly toward the natural bend of the tail; there they are irrevocably scattered, one of them being driven two or three inches out of his track; but the tail, regardless of the Shivering bone following in the other nearly to the end, when the same disturbing power against which the whole Spine contended with so much difficulty, succeeds in carrying off the Battle, which is lost for ever.

It is impossible to last the vertebral Column of this Tauri too much. It lies in ruins, one joint fallen upon another frequent, but the ruin is more impressive than the uprightmost shaft. The waters of the Great Deep overturned it lovingly, and the gravid Seas fell lightly over it. Just as the Sculptor leaves his finished work, we find these remains uncrushed, perfect, but overthrown. If the Architect did once build them up, they have been quietly undermined by that interesting Decay, which, stealing the more evanescent Emblems of Time, compunctiously leaves the radicle Beauty behind, and sometimes even a grace passing that which is conjured away.

Another valuable fact belonging to this Dragon is also obtained. Falling down upon his back, we have the abdominal concavity exposed; and the fortunate displacement of certain of the left ribs discloses a body which can only belong to the Viscera themselves: its color is russet black, it covers the internal paries of the right ribs, and gathers itself up upon them into a bag, the size of an infant's hand. But the most precise words avail little to describe it; the moment you look there into the abdomen, you believe you see the stomach collapsed, and a few meagre contents besieging the intestinal canal; these are manifestly so insufficient to his sustentation, that the Dragon at once appears, man, languidly sinking to the bottom of the Sea, and giving up the finished ghost.

The Solemn Seas themselves hold requiem over his bones, and old Time, warned to the scene, agitates them in his turn. The Profound quivers, accordant with the upper waves, the dead Carcasse of the Dragon moves, and there in the presence of Time, and before the Shivering waters, uplifts his hands. Slowly the waters cease vibration. Time throws the Shroud of Oblivion over another of his sacred dragons, "injuncta monstris Terra dolet suis:" and the Cycles onward run.

Sect. IV.

Species IV. Rostra porrecto. Tab. XXIII.

The thoughtless avidity with which Fashion pursues the minutest distinctions of things, the microscopic eye with which she pries into nature, has filled the world with books of description without an Idea by which they can only deserve to exist. We dive into the Deeps for an animalcule, prick out his tiny heart with the finest needle, and complacently count up the pulses which fulfill his life of scarcely a moment's duration. The invisible tentacles of a Zoophyte, the feathers of an Ephemerus, the ova of a herring, the farina of the most prolific plants, are the favorite objects of study, because they afford the Times exactly the childish sport which interests them most.

The natural eye of a man, steadily fixed upon a given point, loses its sight; and Savages, as soon as they can count their fingers, in an extasy, proceed to count them over and over again. The ancients could not count with Nations. When the World, having passed away, the final summation of Empires, and their achievements, shall be cast up by the Arithmetic of Jehovah, we shall learn that Peoples have forgotten, nay, lost themselves in the gainless Spirit to which we allude. It may be, it is very well to comprehend and enjoy every thing in its measure; but the Cyclops none the less so understood lesser things, because, forging the thunderbolts of Jupiter, they comprehended a vastness and a grandeur which obtains them Immortality. These were the primitive Giants of Renown, who if they did err, it was like as gods, and as gods were they used too.

The Modern Goths need not wonder that the Latins and Greeks boast only an Aristotle and a Pliny, while every dish and saucer from China, and every Shawl from the looms of Ispahan and Isphahân, glows with minutest Iris copied from the Flora of the papilionaceous East. But these have Persepolis and Elephanta, and many other mighty Works, find much Wisdom too, upon which no European has ever safely ventured forth; while we, the Crowned Kings of Men, effect nothing worthy acceptance of the Generations that are to come.

All our most original Essays tend but to a little point; we have admitted a convention which smiles at every thing beyond a certain meridian, and pride ourselves in that Hermaphrodite Reason which Antiquity tolerated but by degrees. A disposition like this leads but to extinction; the Trichinopoly chains are much esteemed, but the patient Smith who forges them is a Slave. In fact, nothing little in Nature is worth more than an instant's notice, since she has filled all her Kingdoms with Monuments of surpassing Grandeur, which the longest-lived Nations can hope to glimpse barely a half.

Who then can endure to pore over the infinitesimal differences of age, of race, of color, of shape, in which Creatures are found. Will not posterity deem us triflers for the pains taken to record so many minute points, even while we neglect the greater Principles of Things. And all our more elaborate Works on Natural History, will they not pass unheeding by them, seeing that the persons they so laboriously set forth are common to the eyes and understandings of all men.

We coast the Marginal Countries of the Earth industriously, crowding our Log with accounts of the grasses, the herbs, and mosses which fringe their shores; and it is at last come to this, that Naturalists assiduously search after a new thing in vain, since the contraction of our vision has put out of its focus all that is not adjusted to the circumscribed field to which it is so foolishly confined. Hence individuals are ever contending over the last found Helix, or the latest variety of a thing, so that the tulipo-mania of the last Century luxuriates in another but no less exaggerated a Species, and distracts the domains of Science, in which the Ancients scarcely ever heard, nor would they have tolerated a brawl.

Every tree bleeds under a thousand knives inscribing as many names; every leaf groans expectant of a like fate. The Vandal treads not alone our Cathedrals, he not alone desecrates their Sacred Marble and Shrines with his savage Name; the Realms of Creation are in-
varied; happy indeed they that the Iconoclast no longer deals with the works of Men's hands, but trifles with the adamantine Monuments of a Divine Power.

The Fashion will come shortly to an end. Then no more shall we stumble over cyphers at every step, nor shall the ear start at unwelcome sounds, nor the wit be insulted by contemptible things, but the Groves of Academus, and the Gymnasia murmur to the converse, or exhibit the athlete of Philosophy, in naked dignity, antique and noble all.

Plate XXIII. In presenting the fourth Species of a Genus we have chanced to find, we therefore make none other boast. It has been seen that Miss Anning previously discovered three several Genera, and was content with the simple fact. America is called not after the finder, and these Taninim have been appropriated in the same way: but Miss Anning nevertheless found them, and the Author, spare the egotism, O Reader, discovered their longitude, and added another Province to the Realm.

Many a Tome, a Language, an Idea, a Sum has he pursued to their last decimal, in quest of that Terra Incognita of Dead Times, that Ultima Thule of the wise Babylonians, Egyptians, Assyrians, and Indians, in the Ocean pre-Adamite; Many Lands traversed, and monsters handled, but to find them strange. The traditioinary pictures of the Temple Bel and the actual ones of Misraim, and Ganges, are accounted fabulous because their Cipher is unknown. We have lost the ante-diluvial measure of Time, about which Usher has led us into so many lamentable follies, the Secrets of the Heavens, and the Science of the Inner Man.

But a Star arises out of Jacob, by whose blessed light we cross the Silent Seas of Time, and explore the Solitary Countries of the Past. It is possible even to the Initiated in the Greater Mysteries, to re-vivify the whole Universe that is gone. If it were not a prophanity we could tell thee, beloved reader, of this terrestrial Ball, a startling tale, and of the shining Spheres. Often at midnight, quenching animal Life, we listen to the dim of Chaos, the rustic of the living Wind over the Primæval Deep, the whisperings of many Spirits. The Red Man and his Dominions pass, the Vasty Wings of Jupiter upon the Globe Earth quiver, the Dread Anark one enters the Scene, and the Universe darkens. Cowing Visions of mingled Heaven and Hell close with a rainy shroud palling the departed Earth; the "Abomination of Desolation" is revealed, the Grey Mountains bowing down their dripping heads, and the Stars falling to the ground out of Heaven. 

Dost thou require proof, behold it here! these Sea-Dragons come from the wonderful Countries we have found, to which the Adamites pointed Heber by the mouth of Noah, and Posterity by the consent of Nations. These are the Great Sea-Dragons, the Gedolim Taninim of Moses, the once gory Monsters of the Primæal Seas. If silence, if height and depth illimitable, if Space and Eternity thou canst meet as an Eagle gazes unblanched upon the Sun, unfurl the Pinions of thy Spirit, give it to the Winds of Heaven, and realize an intact, self-sufficient and satiated a Being, fulfilling that Destiny for which our godlike Race was born.

END OF THE BOOK OF THE DRAGONS ICHTHYOSAURI.
CHAPTER VI

OF THE GREAT SEA-DRAGONS - PLESIOSAURI

WERE it possible to abstract mankind from the habits and artificial conventions of ages, and refer them back to the original Constitution of Man, it is highly probable that we should find nothing positively abhorrent to our feelings throughout all Creation: unless, indeed, some Great Principle, antagonist to the one by whom we are made, had introduced therein objects evoked from an Element hostile and injurious to our own.

For it is impossible to conceive that the Almighty would sow the seeds of Death in a Garden planted for His Pleasure, or deform the Palaces thereof by additions damnable to the Work itself, and fill them with unclean Races for ever at strife with the Favorite for whom it was especially built. And if we admit the habitation of the Seas, long before Adam, by balearful Monsters, and in them a manifest Power allied to Pain and his attendant Horrors, it is easy, nay, reasonable to suppose that the Lord of the Earth himself was to be endowed, with a sense of so much Greatness, that he would stand in the midst of them all, inviolate of strength, and unmindful of them as a god.

We may pursue the problem farther, and imagine with a Phidias, an Apollo, and Python destroyed in the passionless Spirit immortalized in his Statue; or with Raphael, Michael the Archangel treading down Satan, with a brow serene and a mind unruffled as the waters of the River of Life.

The perfection of a Creature cannot be predicated if he be conscious of fear. For this, Milton describes Abdiel repelling the contumelious assaults of the Rebel Armies of Heaven; and passing calm and undaunted through them all. It was the Essence of things, through all the Works of Jehovah downward from the loftiest Angels, the only question being where those Works do end.

On the other hand, were it not foreign to our Text, we might speculate upon the intolerable pangs which seize a fallen and lost, or an originally vicious Creature, when placed in apposition with Elements of Good subversive of his very being.

The Ideas then, and the terms used to denote them of things repugnant, are by no means indigenous to the human understanding, but forced upon us by the hapless circumstances in which we are found. And, presuming with the Ancients and the Easterns even of our own day, that besides Jehovah, another Being has been engaged in populating this Planet, surely no one can object to our calling bitter not sweet, and monsters of surpassing ugliness the hardest Names.

The Mythic Serpents graven of old upon idolatrous altars and Temples, and introduced in the commonest occasions and uses of Life, extorted a Sentiment from Pagan Nations, grateful only to the Cruel Demon they represented, and by the frequency of this personal manifestation, the Great Enemy of our Race hoped utterly to deaden and kill the Instinctive Love of Beauty which survived the Fall, and finally brutalize the whole Earth. In the earlier Campaigns, Anak had the advantage, the Adamites deserted their Standard, signalized themselves in his wars, and paid, too, the penalty of Treason in those Waters, which the Earth invoked wherewith to cleanse away the impurities with which they had filled her: but a Deluge were insufficient for the renewal of the once spotless Constitution of Man, the post-diluvians were, in their turn, beguiled, if not to so great enormity, into frailties of the above fatal kind, and their dispositions became Evil Continually.

The Life and Immortality which in due Season spring to light, open an entirely new Scene for the Energies of Man: Now laying hold upon Heaven, he fearlessly handleth aspish things, combating Evil with his own weapons, in that World so well-nigh conquered for his own. Here too he often stumbles upon the wrecks of Victories won over Evil in Times anterior to the Fortunes of Mankind, which it has been the policy of the Old Dragon to conceal from our knowledge to the last; for not alone since Adam have the Two Dread Principles, Osiris and Typhon, battled for Dominion over the Earth; it has been the theatre of many another War, and the bones of these great Sea-dragons, Plesiosauri, are the remains of but one of the vile Colonies from Tophet, which Jehovah visited with Wrath, and swept out of the World in a whirlwind of Fury and Indignation for ever. Each and every of the Kingdoms accused shall be destroyed in like manner, and the arch-Ruler thereof driven at last to his remaining Citadel in the human heart, be cast out even thence into Perdition everlasting.

The mere ordinary common-places, then, which invest alike all animate and inanimate things, of size, of color, of kind, we again declare our total indifference to them all; when Science bestows move than a passing glance upon them, she forgets the dignity which alone makes her truly worshipful. A hair in a telescope obscures a Star, and in this way the whole Universe may shrink into a Span, and the Past and Future vanish before the momentless Present, while the observer, unconscious of his situation, dreams away, comatous and useless quite, contemplating Effects apart from the latent Principles out of which they come. These Tannim! we seize them as with a divine furor; more intelligible than the Rosetta Stone, they constitute the only Key to Tongues pregnant with Facts of the most astonishing kind concerning the gods. Those Sea-Dragons shall be esteemed for more than bodily Images and Stone:
Not for this do their hateful carcases survive the Scorpion Soul, torn out of them and punished for ever. Despite the unhappy Power in which they originated they betray a Chapter of the Defeat suffered in their persons, long anterior to the final discomfiture he shall undergo with reference to our own, with so different a result. The Carcases themselves we dash in the teeth of the Fiends by whom they were articulated and annimalized; their inductions afford us a hopeful prestige of the Times when Adrammelek and all his Hosts shall be hurled out of the World unto his place,—“fulmine luridum missos ad arcum,” and the ages renewed, re-commerce a fresh, Virgo and the golden Signs.

REGNUM—Gedolim Taninim—םז א קפיו SUB-REGNUM—Plesiosauria.—ים ו ככ מ ש ל ג נ GENUS—Pentatarrasostes.—ו ככ מ מ ו ל ג נ (Quinque ossibus in tallis.) Animalium Lacertiformum in pago Street, cura et opere Thomas Hawkins in lucem prolatorum genus. Tab. XXVII.

If to discover the most signal distinctions which hold amongst Ichthyosaurus, it was necessary to elucidate the immense Collection, over which we dwell with so much satisfaction as the rich reward of a devotion unbounded, an industry untiring, a singleness unshaken, and a good fortune peculiarly our own; how much more indispensable are multiplied spoils of Plesiosaurus, which offer us varieties of form remarkable indeed, but infinitely less conspicuous than those of their contemporary monsters.

Endowed with passions of a more subtle kind, and a bodily figure of a more compact and perfect order whereby to accomplish them, the Plesiosauri gathered their Tribes within a Province of their own, proudly repelling the Fiscal Races at their side, and arrogated the prerogatives of a higher class in the Scale of Being.

Ichthyosaurus ran into every Gender with ease, luxuriating in change, dubious even of the order by which they stood in the midst of the world. The rude spirit of Belial hurried them along in ceaseless lust of blood, brutal immittable, and insatiate Fiends; with eyes, and ears, and bodies intent upon carnage and gore. From a mechanism like this it is impossible to detach an idea of blind and headlong fury, insensible to danger, and every other sentiment but the bloody one to which appetite confined it, so that of all brutes this was the most brutal and un-redeemed.

There are other Faculties which tend to the same fruition, but by a more circuitous path, and elaborate an action, and other Doves than Belial have tried their black art upon matter with a success commensurate and as cunning. Plesiosauri are their handiwork: if the Old Serpent himself did not shed his own teeth upon the ground, out of which these Sea-Dragons, armed with all the virility of Evil instant sprang. Emulous, Satan seems to have been thrice seized, generating Horrors commanding, and realizing a teeming Spawn fitted for the lowest Abyss of Chaos. Long uncouth limbs, lank bodies, egregious tails, necks ambitious of the most terrible Serpents, and heads crowning them with Kindred guile, behold the Dragon Plesiosaurus contend.

The deformities of body with which they came forth were accompanied by immoral powers of a congenorous and ugly order, and physical dispositions quick to fulfil them. The Jaws bristling with sharpest teeth, the muscular neck twisting to and fro, not alone were experienced by the victim they impaled; a more fatal agent than either both: the snaky crest, the fury no longer, but the Jaws remain, over the anterior margin of which did once dart a forked tongue, the gums distilling poison at every pore.

Had the Adamites been formed upon less conservative principlal they not the mighty neutralized the deleterious substances which compose these Sea-Dragons, the long march of Ages might not suffice, and their Virus may have guided Death to the recesses even of our own hearts, through the absorbents of the fingers by which we expose their bones.

So concentrated a Horror, we could expect to present scarcely a variety of aspect. The Summit of Arianans his Creation must come like all other things to a point: Plesiosauri are an order so frightful that the least addition would commit it to the grotesque.

It were vain then to look for lines of generic demarcation as broad as those of Ichthyosaurus; may be some Plesiosauri were green, and black, and yellow, like Indian, others spotted and mottled, like African Snakes; some were large, some small, but they all belong to a category with a single point: the Skeletons which remain to us, although they differ from one another, suffice for a Generic but scarcely a special system: and it now becomes our duty to inquire after and record the varieties which have come to our Knowledge, and to award the result to each which may appear its due.

Certain naturalists, struck with the fashion in which Ichthyosaurus and Plesiosauri are contrived and put together, influenced, perhaps, by the Pythagorean doctrine of Species, and beguiled by the seemingly endless conformation which holds throughout every individual known, have speculated upon and even entertained a notion that both Regna were related to each other intimately, converging each to the other in a long graduated chain of persons, at last meeting and uniting in the most Cordial brotherhood together.

It was sufficiently shown, we presume, in our memoirs, not certainly by an examination of each side by side, but by the more simple and studious description of each one in his proper place, that any such an hypothesis is wholly untenable, as the community of disposition to blood is all that the Tanim had together. It may be also allowed that they were amphibious, but in far differing degrees, the spine, and penile paddles confining Ichthyosaurus entirely to the Sea, while the more thick-set and bony Plesiosaurus may have splashed through the Shallows and ooze of the Sea to spawn, or to ambush in the marginal Algae and Flags, with scarcely an effort. It is impossible to carry resemblance farther; the long crocodile-head of the one fixed immovably to his back modelled from a fish, his tapering and slender tail, his paddles too made up of circular or pentagonal bones enclosed in cuticular fat, but ill accord with the characteristics of the other. Rather say that the minute viper-head, pivotal upon that astonishing neck, the heavy quadrupedal carcase of the Plesiosaurus, and his thick and labouring tail, his hands, his feet too framed like our own but webbed, present the very antithesis of the former, and deny with one consent any relation whatever. The Giants of earlier kind sped the waves, and battling, may have reddened them often with mutual blood, demons as they both were:
but the company was not of choice, none other passions but of rage and alien hate possessing them twain.

Moreover, it has been supposed that both Dragons had a rugged, or even a hairy hide, and fins for which no use can be assigned, nor evidence of them found; as though the lank, the ungainly monsters were not yet sufficiently extraordinary, and were delighted hereinafter.

It was as profileless too to search amongst these Dragons for analogies with living Races. The world has grown testy in her Old Age, and will not brook any such attempt. Where we now freeze half the year, of yore there was a perennial Summer, these 'Taninim bating through all their lengthened Generations in tepid Deeps: the constitution of things was unlike the present, as was the Creation of which these Creatures made the dark and trembling side: the Canicular Times were theirs, their god Typhon in his prime, the Storm of God's wrath couching in the clouds afar off.

The Snakes, and uncouth things, and deadly, in our own Earth, and the unclean, may have been imitated from the fragments of these Taninim, over which the besom of Destruction eventually swept, but what boots the posthumous likeness. We know that Crocodiles, and Lizards, and Chameleons, and the Ophissaurian Tribes claim descent from these ancient Races, but the family records are for the most part illegible, and of value only in a general sense. We may pore over them by these modern lights, and perhaps, identify a character here and there, but the Great Book of Dead Times is unique. The later Editions are incomplete, the Court-hand having been altered for another; and these Sea-Dragons remain in their primal State, alone, approached but awful, the wizard Giants of Time, and the wonder of the world.

Thus it is seen that the Remains of Plesiosauri must be looked at for themselves only. Congregating all the known individuals, and testing them by one another, we ventured in our former Book to prefer the tarsus for the required distinctions, and thence identified four several Species. The Rule has so much more comprehensive a basis in Ichthyosaurus, that for that reason we may be dissatisfied with it in the present instance. But the choice is imperative. The head, neck, trunk, tail, may and do differ in all the Skeletons, in shape, in life, in all the司, in all the Species, in relation, but we can detect in either no mark anyway equal to the one elected, and therefore it must Continue. And now, the addition of two entire Skeletons to the list of Plesiosauri impose a further necessity. The Duke of Buckingham's, Lord Cole's, that at the British Museum by Miss Anning, and the author's—recorded in our Memoirs, are corrected by these discoveries, and enabled to take precedence another stop. They assume a generic Title, and we hasten to record the persons by the discovery of which it is authorized and assured.

First, the Pentatsaurostinus of Plate XXVII. The panygeric of this and all the other 'Taninim perpetuated by us, is inscribed in golden numbers in our National Archives; it having been pronounced first by Imperial Buckland, and repeated in parliament with acclamation.

The beautiful Remain of Plate XXIV startled and delighted the most eminent Naturalists, so that they exhausted the vocabulary of praise, Conybear himself setting the example. But the Skeleton before us transcends even that. He has paid no tribute to Time, nor to Death, and malicious Fate has succeeded in spoiling him only of a few phalanges of the right hand, which have been pointed at her in defiance, and sacrificed in the net. Of all his Tribe, he only is known: they are sunk in oblivion all, leaving this one 'Dragon behind them crowned with values of the highest kind, kindly and alone. We subjoin extracts from Journal, showing the manner in which, and by what a happy chance, he fell into our hands.

"1834, June 19. My attention was yester-day solicited by a quarryman, to the section of a few small bones at the bottom of Bond's quarry: they appear so little promising, that I passed them by.

"Thursday, A whim possesses me to examine more particularly the bones in Bond's quarry, to which I shall at once go.

"Friday. Instinct, only another word for Intuition, is surer than reason. To my agreeable surprise the section has led to the most interesting result: upon excavating the overlying strata the rudiments of an entire Skeleton faintly presented themselves, through a thick covering of Limestone. With difficulty I have traced the larger bones of a Plesiosaurus, which lies in a bed of lias ten inches thick, and the most compact and crystallized of all the layers.

"Saturday. The prize safely delivered up at Sharpham."

The Journal proceeds.—"The teeth of this Plesiosaurus are exactly like those of all others known, save the gigantic Races, curved superiorly, and sharp, strated upon the external enamel, and perfectly smooth upon the alveolar body, which is hollowed to protect the nascent tooth waiting to usurp its place. The teeth of Ichthyosaurus vary to infinity, and for that very reason compel us to forego them as specific marks, or to isolate every fragment with a tooth in it, in a Class by itself. These Dragons, on the contrary, afford but two sorts of teeth, which belong to the Greater and the Less Plesiosauri. There are so many vital differences among the latter Tribes, that it is impossible they could have originated in one common Stock, their teeth then manifestly also fail us in the identification of Species.

The neck of Plate XXVII, curved simister, presents three-fourths of its circumferential parts in all the order and regularity of Life itself. Except, indeed, where it approaches and in relation, but the right lateral processes of the three vertebrae anterior to it have been thrown.

The great and unknown Race Plesiosaurus, dimly seen through the Perspective of Ages, may well have agitated the Antiquary of Science, in that infrequent Path, 'across; which it flitted before him. It must have been a strange moment for Mr. Conybear, that wherein, piercing the Shades he described one of the Eleusinian of Time, so long jealously buried under the Pillars of Matter; a grand Fact unveiled before him! The Skeleton thereof hideous thrice, but the accompanying inducts astonishing and sublime. Mr. Conybear invoking Homer, called it ' Dolichoderus.' What right the original Plesiosaurus, upon which that epithet was conferred, may have to the same, contradict distinguished from others, it is impossible to define. The neck and Sternum having been dislocated and scattered. But this much we know, that the neck of these Monsters no more than the teeth, hold the Generic secret. We learnt this from the subject of Plate XXVII, and my Lord Cole's bountiful Plesiosaurus: both which have a common number of cervical bones, and signally oppose each other in...
every respect beside; Lord Cole's also having six tarsal joints. We have often shuddered upon the precipice of our Generic Hypothesis, but this one fact of comparison places us entirely out of danger from the cervix, as ere now we have escaped the no less trying test of the teeth.

The Sternum remains in all its entirety, composed of three bones, a body and alar at its side: Plate XXVI contains the drawing of a large Sternal bone, in which the connexion of the two wings with the centre is most carefully shown. Anatomists who value more than metaphysical relations, the coincidences of natural forms, will study the breast and scapular bones of Ichthyosaur and Plesiosauri side by side; the scapulas, clavicles, and Sternum of both having the same style of mechanism.

It is impossible, hidden as they are under the ribs, the Sternum, and the pelvis, to count decisively the dorsal vertebrae, only four of which, just anterior to the pelvis, discover themselves. The true and the floating ribs maintain their order, while the ventral ones have been slightly displaced, by the explosion, probably, of Animal gases.

Oryctologists have so much exaggerated the length of the neck, at the expense of the carcasse of Ple-siosaurn, that the equipoise of the first and last is a fact they will unwillingly learn, although it certainly may have been assumed from the very first. In Plate XXVI the neck apparently is rather longer than the tail, but such is not the truth, seeing that the latter is imperfect. The caudum of the superb skeleton Plate XXVII is the only entire one extant, the three terminal bones being thrown back upon the preceding vertebrae. And it is difficult to ascertain even here, the exact point where the tail commences, the ischia projecting backward over the bones so as effectually to conceal the vertebrae, which succeeded those with which the ilia articulated. The manner of that articulation is fully shown in Plate XXV; so that we can approximate to a correct measure, and prove the neck and tail nearly alike in length. Moreover, the tail, arming its squared solidified vertebrae with heavy spines, reaches the balance of the head and neck together, so that the Creature oscillated upon a fulcrum fixed in his navel. The paddles elongating, or downward, backward, or before, fixed the pivot upon which Plesiosauri swung forward in heat for prey, or wanton flight, or prone down to the nether deeps, their den.

The longest phalangal series of the anterior extremity amounts to nine, the longest posterior one to ten joints; thus reversing the fact in Lord Cole's specimen, and exceeding, by two joints, the longest toe in the Plesiosaurus of Plate XXIV.

The long, lank, skinny hands, the deathy paddles of Plesiosaurus, or spotted, or livid yellow and pale, upon them fiend-like he fled: his hide, or black or freckled, or russet, his eyes blood-shot fiery, or green, lizard-like: his teeth, his fangs whetted sharp, floating upon and crunching the gristles of his dying prey: or fleeting through the Expanse of Ocean, or tempting the Profound, or cresting the Upper Waves, preying, or at watch for prey, or lulling himself upon the wide, the universal deep; coming from the Abyss of Ages, the Gog, or the Magog of Pro-Adamite Earth, Giant of Wrath and Battle, behold! the Great Sea-Dragon, the Emperor of Past Worlds, maleficient, terrible, direct, and sublime.

CHAPTER VII.

GENUS HEXATARSOSTINUS. "Epic. tappooc et corov (Sex oseibus in tablis.) Animalium iaectiformium in pae Street, cura et operis Auctoris in extremo tenuissime, haunting the solitary wastes and ruins of the World, stalks away alone from the fickle Generations of Man, through the labyrinthian Chambers and oppressive Mists of Ages.

The Antique Spirit of Earth, wrinkled with Time, and of visage, pinned up by Grief and Despair, plunging into abstracted parts sits for ever upon the centres of things, remote from Vulgar gaze. The mortality, certes, are sometimes found in the tomb of uncounted Ages, exuvial bones protrude ghastly through the worn out Pall of Matter, or are cast up of the sickening Grave in earthquake pangs, but the stem and terrible Ghost of the Dead worlds is abstraction all, shapeless, and infinitely strange.

The awful Golgotha of Time, we explore, O reader, in no rude mind, and the skeletons of traditionary monsters value for no materialism, but for the moralities they induct, and the secret passages they conceal of the ancient proterotus genus. Tab. XXVIII., efficient of Days, mysterious nature. We rate the Tanimin for their perfect parts anatomical, so much as for the Ideas they subscribe, the Language they perpetuate, and the sublimity which is the text thereof; the gross, the palpable skeletons may satiate the eye and fulfil the desire of a common curiosity, but the last elevate the Soul of Man over the Profound Past, and the endless perspective To Come.

The grand Plesiosaurus of Plate XXVIII lies in a ponderous grave, built up with irregular lamella of Lias stone; the carcasse seems to have passed through the several stages of corruption unbroken, but the unquiet waters finally sported with and scattered the osseous monster, which erst ruled them, and reluctantly gave him burial. His was a hasty and begrudged obsequy, so the capricious Seas first wrecking him, heaped up the Pall of Cold Matter about his bones with no ceremony nor care. How long and through what vasty Cycles did the Seas...
career over him silent and forgotten quite; what agonies of joy and rage, what mighty throes of being have been, and how often felt throughout the Realm of Seas, since first the Dragon Lorded there, and also since the, time of his final death-struggle therein. How many Revolutions of the Universe have passed since, this Monster dread; how many Races have or tramped, or fledded with wing, or with fin, over his desolate bones.

Dead these illimitable years, and oblivious are the Dragons, they are come to a certain finis, and realize the fact of a machine, contrived for none imaginable End would be spurned away by the Inventor, abandoned for an unknown reason. Generated soon after the advent of Time, and extinguished long before the birth of any Creature cognate of Time, these old Sea-Dragons afford the most, comprehensive Index of Eternity known by sheer negations and emblems, abstract that the natural Eye of Man entirely fails them, as it also fails him in the solution of the distances of telescopic Suns.

The Works of Jehovah being liable to no such an imputation and a like fate, these Dragons verify the action of some other Power in the remotest ages of our Earth.

With this silken thread of Truth we may enter the Caverns of Time, speculate with propriety upon the Moral Mysteries therein concealed, and anatomize them all.

Reverently bowing our faces to the ground we trace the Shadow of Jehovah, the serpent Hanahash, through Sinuous Gulfs of Machiavellian depth. If, indeed, that Fallen Angel did spawn forth the kindred but mortal Dragons, in the bent of his malignant temper, Creative, and lighting up the uncouth animal Frame thereof with a spark of the doomed last faint, away by the Inventor; constitutes his very essence, and no less his needless woe, sent it upon the bloody mission to kill and yet kill on, until the Generations being fulfilled, and the last murderer murdered by Time in his righteous turn, the hellish animal expelled thence, reverted to the Father of its accursed being. Or, if handling inanimate clay, and fashioning it into the hideous shape we recover in these Sea-Dragon bones, Evil then did himself enter therein to possess it, to propagate like monstrosities wherewith to dog, and terrify, and aggrieve the Earthly Dominions; and conceiving other monsters, horrid Cancer, cramp'd Urchin, or Polyp with enormous tentacles, or the Dragon with wing glazed skinny for air or for sea, fecious all, did imbue them with his Legionary Angels, gloat upon one another furies, instant for universal War; when lo! the Times being ripe, the Armies gathered together, they fell at one fell swoop of the Incarnate Fiend himself, which, crowning the numberless heap of abhorred bodies at Armageddon, with his own giant one, left Futurity those vast Reservoirs of pitch, and magazines of sulphur and other poisonous salts, fermenting the carcasses of these Anakim cast off.

Or, journeying from black Tartarus, that Old Serpent coming into the light of the blessed Sun, ambushed awhile from fear in the unfurnished and silent chambers of the Ocean-Earth, whom Jehovah, leaving matter to an inevitable process, omniscient, well knowing the End at the which He overlutheth the Prince of darkness, suffered it to pass. I say that Old Serpent ambushing did attract the night of things, the antipodes out of which sprang this savage brood, inspired with the drunken fumes, the saturnine aura of his abhorrent being.

Python; his Battles in Heaven ended hopelessly, the Battles of Heaven so guarded that attempt them when or wherever he may yet still in vain; Python, banished the Universe he aimed at in Evil day, abandoned to himself throughout Eternity in the Antipodal fiery, or frozen, and blasted One, driven in his frantic course upon the verge of this new world of matter, caught all the antithesis thereof upon the instant.

Through the, to us, long and dreary Revolution of an Embryo Planet, exposed to all imaginable cometary extremes of drought and deluge, through Earth, Air, Fire, and Water, and all the other numberless anarchical conditions unimaginable, Hanahash rooted. The tragic Colossus, next once to Jehovah, to whom once bowed all but One, rooted through all the interstices of atoms, disguising the dark sides thereof at his will, and ruling them in the mind of a god: Over the chaotic Earth he sent light oblique, through the Deeps turbulence, so that the Elements, wrested to his purpose, nourished the animal spirits of his Sea-Dragons, over-populating the whole world, War and Death reigning over them all without end: The molecular bodies caught in his fatal vortice, arranging themselves in obedience to an imperative Law of mind, resulting in the Taninim we set forth, and other carnivorous automata long since ceased from the Book of life.

The great work of Creation progressing to a point, the Allmiglity Ruler could but observe these foreign and asplic things, and the merest comment of the Creator sufficed for their utter evanishment from the Earth: the mere atoms themselves, rejected by Jehovah, remaining alone from the neighboring parts, kept apart from God's Earth evermore.

And here in the latter days, now when the mental powers of the post-diluvians are, perhaps, at the very lowest ebb, at their very apheilon relatively to the Father of Lights, now when all intuition of Truth, either foregone or to Come, all the Faculties of that wisdom prophetical so esteemed by the earlier nations, the decay of which was parallel with Their gradual atrophy, new, now when all these Faculties lie torpid in the bosoms of our general Race, do these Skeletons of desecrated matter, these Hordes of the Spiritual Attila which ruled in the dark Ages before Adam over the circumfluent Earth, protrude upon our sight, invoking memories which even the dire Conflagration of accomplished Earth shall fail to quench, eternal ever.

As though Evil himself, foreseeing the tragical History of Man, essayed these monsters, anticipating other Furies to be loosened upon us, when subjected to Demons, so that he might the more certainly know how to deform, animate, and convert mind itself into a capacity of Horror unimaginable and infinite. Upon a Verge so awful we stand aghast: at the feet of the Precipice roar the Black Waters of revolted Times, urging to the Heavens. The Panorama of Ages stretching out into waste and Desolation, nourishing monsters alien both to the Constitution and the Soul of man. Blast shrieking to blast continuous, Providence laughed to scorn, the Fortunes of man abandoned to Fiends.

These Sea-dragons, of them we may treat learnedly by what a wondrous appliance of ribbed joints they compressed air into the lung, by which to sustain themselves a long while when driven to the nether depths. With what a cunning machine of eye they trapped and made use of God's blessed light, with what incarnate guile they accomplished a life abhorred of Jehovah: we may trace the channels of poison which distilled from their livid gums.
the cranial Caverns in which their brutal appetites lurked, and handle and expatiate on teeth nurtured from the cradle in blood: But the Theme demands a loftier tone; of ante-human Time, from Nox and Erebus, and of our mighty mother Earth, the fell Autochthones, these have ventured to assume the lowestest diapason of primitive Spheres: Over the eternal infinitude floating, that mortal which haply listens the music of the tremendous Soul of Time, joins involuntary in the mighty Chorus: Alp on Alp uprising, the "unknown Tongue" cometh intuitively upon him, in which we can alone of Time, join in voluntarily in the mighty Chorus: Alp probably, of Saturn, and the conditions of the ancient Ossuary of the world, strown thick with the skeletons of these huge Dragons,—we realize an Intellectual Image immeasurably grand and terrible.

From the busy Seas of our own Time, adventurously sailing forth into the Ocean of the Past, out upon the lines of universal waters, stretching into dead infinitude, no Continent, nor Isle to break the awful expanse, we look.

The Niagara of Time too, falling each a tremendous Ocean from one System to another, over the Universe from the Lap of heary Eternity,—we hear them Roar.

Majestic wings, leafery, carefully glazed and strong in Hell, overshadowing the ugly Aborigines of the watery world, Serpents all,—we behold.

And over them all, and above all, inaccessible to the loftiest flight of the Halycon Soul, in far immensity, alone, Jehovah, blessed be His Holy Name, whom we worship and adore.

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CONCLUSION.

The Current of our Argument gliding past more than one "pons asinorum" of the modern School, as contradistinguished from the Ancient Academus, we have ventured to assume the lowestest diapason of primitive Earth, and a universal Climatal Law over its entire circumference, during the greater part of the Epoch to which the Primary and Secondary Rocks belong.

We have also insisted upon the Succession of organised matter, from Vegetables to molluscan Fish through all their kinds, reptiles marine, aerial, and aquatic, and appropriated the superior Transitional and the Secondary Rocks for themselves, to the exclusion of any real terrestrial animals whatever.

To prove the roundness of the Globe, in its original chaotic State, requires only the simplest figures and processes of reason, matter being the numerator and denominator both. The generic organic remains too of any given rock on one side of the Earth, are repeated at its antipodes. Mr. Darwin found at the Pass of Puquena, South America, not only Liias, but the glyptothec, ostrac, turritella, ammonites, and terebratula which belong to the Liias under our feet. Commodore Sir. C. Bullen collected at Fernando Po, Accra, and Sierra Leone, fossil organic remains congenerous with those of Lygis Regm. A series of Secondary Limestones Covers a vast Area in South Europe and Asia, the organic Creatures of which existed in the coterminous Ocean which then covered America. The Mosasaurs, of Maestricht, have been found thousands of miles apart, while the petrified Vegetables of Melville's Island, in the Frozen Zone, as triumphantly show that one general thermal temperature pervaded the whole globe.

The conflicting Elements of our own time result in anything but harmonies like these. No causes after the fashion now in operation could produce these universal Formations, nor sustain the creatures which we find everywhere entombed in their bowels. The old Populations of the Globe were as foreign to those of the present day, as are those, probably, of Saturn, and the conditions of the Earth they occupied were necessarily no less different from our own.

And with respect to the creative order of Living Things, the priority of the primitive Earth, and a universal Climatal Law over its entire circumference, during the greater part of the Epoch to which the Primary and Secondary Rocks belong.

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Moreover, it was impossible to avoid the much disputed question of Time and duration, a rock upon which no one has hitherto steered without foundering; and for which the Holy Scriptures have been perverted by the unclean hand in a way to make us regret their translation into our mother tongue. The incapacity of mankind to comprehend more than one of the thousand angles of Time, viz. that which he faces always in the fear and peril of Death, should, methink, have made us careful how we approached them. The Asians generally, and the Hebrews in particular have a much more philosophical Dictionary of Time than the Europeans, who measure Cycles and Epicycles correctly, but dignifying them as Elements in the resolution of Time, they entirely overlook the moral quantities by which the former reach their grand conclusions. The short Circle we run around the Sun is adapted to our limits, but what is that compared to the Cycle of all the worlds. The Seer, standing in the Presence of Jehovah, Chaos and the Beginning of things out-battling before him, penetrated Systems beyond our imagination, and Equations to us unknown. His Periods of Time were reckoned by them, and not the fleeting ones in common vise, so that all our Essays after the Chronology of Moses must end in disappointment until we obtain the measures by which he framed it. In distant Ages, when the telescopic Instruments of men’s minds shall be better used and known, the centre of Relation to which the Earth really belongs may be found, and the Scriptures understood in a matter about which we can now hardly speculate without impiety.

Natural Religion being confessedly insufficient, at the same time it carries us onward to the last stage but one towards the solution of the grand Argument of pre-human Time and things, we have invoked the Sphinx in the name of God, and deciphered riddles by Revelation. The fashionable doctrine that Evil is infinitely overbalanced by good, and even made to subserve and multiply that good, so that it may be doubted if there be such a thing as Evil after all, is a Sophism which failed the Stoics two thousand years ago, and calculated for an infidel meridian alone. The argument for an eternal succession of Species having been disposed of, we cannot resist the innumerable tendencies which point to the first man as the most perfect of all the works of Jehovah; and History testifies of renowned Sages, Lawgivers, and Mechanicians, the sound of whose wisdom and skill puts that of the moderns to shame; nature herself, sympathizing with mind, then brought forth animals as much larger than their descendants as the Intellect of co-temporary man was nobler than our own. The Banks of Rio Plata have skeletons of an armadillo, Patagonia a Llama and Rodent, thrice the size of their surviving congener, and the remains of Pachyderma colossal by the side even of our modern giants, are dispersed over all the world. The huge carnivorous Races found in Caverns and gravel-beds have a second moral from whence it is impossible to escape, and the Earth is filled with uncounted Ruin, but ill-concealed with flowers.

Man too, exiled from the great Continent of the Universe, shackle with ancestral irons, pitiful and naked, exposed to every Tempest, on the brink of Eternity, splashing frequent to Suicides Immortal.

Or wandering over the Prison-Earth contemplative of a distant and strange Country, our final home, banished thence so long for no treason of our own, ever and anon glimpsing terrible Spectres of Might, our evil Genius.

Or fleeing from Them in terror, forgetful of the dismal Times, looking back retrospective far over the wintry Ocean, into Pre-adamic Shades, we encounter execrable and dreary things in the abounding Chaos. Through briny clouds incumbent impetuous Monsters gleam phrenetic, livid, or green, or swarthy snakes, quadrupedal and deadly. Wide over the desolate Seas warning Dragons innumerable and hideous, enacting Perdition.

Whichever Sign of the Vasty Zodiack girdling the World, menacing Images gloomy and alien to the Nature of Man, dare and confront him.

And the Animal, also the Spiritual type of Horror and Woe, from natal Time downward to these our Days, and throughout the Eternal Perspective To come, is Draconic and Reptile.

The mortal Dragon, which first troubled the primal Earth, lurking in the bowels of the Earth, the far Centre, turned from Light instinctive, anticipative.

The Emperor of Dragon Spirits, Orcus, ruleth the nether Depths, coped with black adamant.

"Acherontia Templa, alta, Orci, pallida, Leti omnubila, obsita tenebris lucu."

The carcases of the Sea-Dragons are strown over the whole Earth; and thus shall dire thunderbolts winch shattered life out of them, fall upon and overthrow the Kindred Legions of Sathanus.

Onward then, to the End of Time, when the Rival Gods shall come to their last Battle, in the other Armageddon, our World being sacked and its ashes scattered to the Winds of Space.

Thy Spirit, O Reader, and mine own shall be there, in that same Battle-field: In Coat of Mail impenetrable by rare inductions from these same Sea-Dragons, and with Weapons of Spoil taken from the Enemy in the Tourney of Earth, there will we muster Host.

The Deluge of Wrath once loosened upon the Earth, shall be let slip again in an Ocean of Fire meetingishuable, and roar responsive to the agonized Legions of the Old Dragon, overwhelmed in His turn.

The baneful Dragons, O Seas, are gone: Fiends, O Earth, have filled thee with the bones of Defeat and Death. Future Angels to whom the Wars and Destructions of Time are unknown, shall seek throughout the limitless Empires of Space their ghastly remains, and finding amongst them the self-same Weapons of which we speak, be curious in remote centenaries to hear anew the Tale of the Dragons.

FINIS