

Plate II. ; and affords a good practical lesson for the student and the young collector. Among some blocks of chalk containing fossils, which a recent fall in one of the quarries near Lewes had brought to light, was a large mass split asunder, and exposing, on each corresponding surface, an irregular oval marking of a yellowish brown colour ; this appearance is represented Pl. II. fig. 1. Presuming that these markings were produced by a transverse section of the body of a fish, the two blocks were trimmed into a portable size, and accurately cemented together with very *hot, thin, fresh* glue. When consolidated, some of the chalk was chiselled off in the supposed longitudinal direction of the enclosed fish ; and part of the body, covered with scales, was exposed, as Pl. II. fig. 2. With the view of ascertaining the extent of the Ichthyolite, some of the surrounding stone was then removed towards each extremity of the block, and traces of the fish were discovered, as shown in the same figure. The task of completely developing the fossil was thus rendered comparatively easy ; the chalk was chiselled, cut, and scraped away, till the perfect fish, as seen in fig. 3, was developed.* The block was then

* The figure in Pl. II. is too small to convey an accurate idea of this Ichthyolite, which is now in the British Museum. M. Agassiz's figure very inadequately represents the original. A beautiful lithograph of this fish, by Mr. Pollard, of Brighton, was published in the Catalogue of the Mantellian Museum, 1836.