

the *Lepidosteus*, or, as he familiarly terms it, the gar-pike. 'The gar-pike is,' he says, 'a happy fellow, and beats all fish-creation: he can hurt everything, and nothing can hurt him.' And such is the living type of what was the prevailing and dominant family of the fauna of the Coal Measures.

The great size and marvellous abundance of those reptile fishes of the Carboniferous period may well excite wonder. One ironstone band in the neighbourhood of Gilmerton has furnished by scores, during the last few years, jaws of the *Rhizodus Hibberti* and its congeners, of a mould so gigantic, that the reptile teeth which they contain are many times more bulky than the teeth of the largest crocodiles. Teeth and scales of the same genus are also abundant among the limestones of Burdiehouse;—some of the teeth much worn, as if they had belonged to very old individuals; and some of the scales, which were as largely imbricated as those of the haddock or salmon, full five inches in diameter. The broken remains of a Burdiehouse specimen now in the museum of the Royal Society of Edinburgh are supposed by Agassiz to have formed part of one of the largest of true fishes,—a fish which might be appropriately described in the sublime language applied in Job to Leviathan. If the gar-pike, a fish from three to four feet in length, can make itself so formidable, from its great strength and activity, and the excellence of its armour, that even the cattle and horses that come to drink at the water's side are scarce safe from its attacks, what must have been the character of a fish of the same reptilian order from thirty to forty feet in length, furnished with teeth thrice larger than those of the hugest alligator, and ten times larger than those of the bulkiest *Lepidosteus*, and that was covered from snout to tail with an impenetrable mail of enamelled bone? 'Canst thou play with Leviathan as with a bird? Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons, or his head with fish-spears? Who can open the doors of his face? His teeth are terrible