

nishes none of our higher ichthyic luxuries, is remarkable for the numbers of the human family which it provides with a wholesome and palatable food. The delicate Salmonidæ and the Pleuronectidæ,—families to which the salmon and turbot belong,—were ushered into being as early as the times of the Chalk ; but the Gadidæ or Cod family,—that family to which the cod proper, the haddock, the dorse, the whiting, the coal-fish, the pollock, the hake, the torsk, and the ling belong, with many other useful and wholesome species,—did not precede man by at least any period of time appreciable to the geologist. No trace of the family has yet been detected in even the Tertiary rocks.

Of the Ganoids of the second age of vertebrate existence,—that of the Old Red Sandstone,—some were remarkable for the strangeness of their forms, and some for constituting links of connection which no longer exist in nature, between the Ganoid and Placoid orders. The Acanth family, which ceased with the Coal Measures, was characterized, especially in its Old Red species, by a combination of traits common to both orders ; and among the extremer forms, in which Palæontologists for a time failed to detect that of the fish at all, we reckon those of the genera *Coccosteus*, *Pterichthys*, and *Cephalaspis*. The more aberrant genera, however, even while they consisted each of several species, were comparatively short-lived. The *Coccosteus* and *Cephalaspis* were restricted to but one formation a-piece ; while the *Pterichthys*, which appears for the first time in the lower deposits of the Old Red Sandstone, becomes extinct at its close. On the other hand, some of the genera that exemplified the general type of their class were extremely long-lived. The *Celacanth*s were reproduced in many various species, from the times of the Lower Old Red Sandstone to those of the Chalk ; and the *Cestracion*s, which appear in the Upper Ludlow rocks as the oldest of fishes, continue in at least one species to exist