

Salamander of the Tertiary epoch had the dimensions of a Crocodile ; and its discovery opens a pregnant page in the history of geology. The skeleton of this Reptile was long considered to be that of a human victim of the deluge, and was spoken of as "*homo diluvii testis*." It required all the efforts of Camper and Cuvier to eradicate this error from the minds of the learned, and probably in the minds of the vulgar it survived them both.

Upon the left bank of the Rhine, not far from Constance, a little above Stein, and near the village of Ceningen, in Switzerland, there are some fine quarries of schistose limestone. In consequence of their varied products these quarries have often been described by naturalists ; they are of Tertiary age, and were visited, among others, by Horace de Saussure, by whom they are described in the third volume of his "*Voyage dans les Alpes*."

In 1725, a large block of stone was found, incrustated in which a skeleton was discovered, remarkably well preserved ; and Scheuchzer, a Swiss naturalist of some celebrity, who added to his scientific pursuits the study of theology, was called upon to give his opinion as to the nature of this relic of ancient times. He thought he recognised in the skeleton that of a man. In 1726 he published a description of these fossil remains in the "*Philosophical Transactions*" of London ; and in 1731 he made it the subject of a special dissertation, entitled "*Homo diluvii testis*"—Man, a witness of the Deluge. This dissertation was accompanied by an engraving of the skeleton. Scheuchzer returned to the subject in another of his works, "*Physica Sacra*," saying: "It is certain that this schist contains the half, or nearly so, of the skeleton of a man ; that the substance even of the bones, and, what is more, of the flesh and of parts still softer than the flesh, are there incorporated in the stone ; in a word, it is one of the rarest relics which we have of that accursed race which was buried under the waters. The figure shows us the contour of the frontal bone, the orbits with the openings which give passage to the great nerves of the fifth pair. We see there the remains of the brain, of the sphenoidal bone, of the roots of the nose, a notable fragment of the maxillary bone, and some vestiges of the liver."

And our pious author exclaims, this time taking the lyrical form—

"Betäubtes Beingerüst von einem altem Sünder  
Erweiche, Stein, das Herz der neuen Bosheitskinder !"

"O deplorable skeleton of an accursed ancient,  
Mayst thou soften the hearts of the late children of wickedness !"

The reader has before him the fossil of the Ceningen schist (Fig.