

Hercules, a fable, no doubt, derived from the history of Jonah.

It appears clearly that the word is also used for a serpent, for it is employed to express the animal into which the rod of Moses and those of the Egyptian magicians were transformed, as related in the book of Exodus.

The typical animal, however, if I may so employ that term, or the dragon proper of scripture, is undoubtedly a Saurian, especially the amphibious ones, such as the crocodile and its affinities. In the Septuagint version the Hebrew word is sometimes rendered by the term Siren, which in other places is used for the ostrich,* derived from a root which relates to its noise, but the Siren of the Greeks is very different from that of these Jews; the former, being a fabulous, the latter a real animal. Travellers describe the noises of crocodiles and alligators as horrible. Crocodiles during the whole summer, says Bosc, but especially immediately after they emerge from the earth, that is in the spring and the epoch of their amours, frequently send forth lowings almost as loud as those of an ox. They respond to each other often by hundreds, especially in the evening, which makes in the swampy forest a frightful and thundering din. Captain Jobson says, that those of the river Gambia utter cries that may be heard from a great distance, which seem as if they issued from the ground.

The whale also, when it expels the water, is related to make a frightful noise, like distant thunder. Captain Cook represents the walrus, when in herds, as roaring or braying very loud, and some species of seals are stated to bellow like bulls.

The hissing of serpents agrees less with the radical idea of the word *dragon*, than the noises of either of the preceding tribes of animals. The aquatic and amphibious Saurians

* Isa. xiii. 21. Job xxx. 29, &c.