

“ramper-eel,” or “poison-ramper,” was regarded by Linnæus as belonging, not to the class of fishes, but to the Vermes. Now, *this* is the special fact with which, in the development controversy, the author of the “Vestiges” connects the name of the Swedish naturalist! All the fish of the Silurian System belonged to that true Placoid order which Linnæus, impressed by its high standing, erected into an order, not of worms, but of reptiles. He elevated A, the true Placoid, while he degraded B, the glutinous hag. But it was necessary to the argument of the author of the “Vestiges” that the earliest existing fish should be represented as fish low in the scale; and so he has cited the name and authority of Linnæus in its bearing against the glutinous hag B, as if it had borne against the standing of the true Placoid A. The Patagonians are the tallest and bulkiest men in the world, whereas their neighbors the Fuegians are a slim and diminutive race. And if, in some controversy raised regarding the real size of the more gigantic tribe, they were to be described as the “very *tallest* types of their class,” any statement in reply, to the effect that some trustworthy voyager had examined certain races of the extreme south of America, and had found that they were both short and thin, would be neither relevant in its facts nor legitimate in its bearing. But if the controversialist who thus strove to strengthen his case by the voyager’s authority, was at the same time fully aware that the voyager had seen not only the diminutive Fuegians, but also the gigantic Patagonians, and that he had described these last as very gigantic indeed, the introduction of the statement regarding the smaller race, when he wholly sank the statement regarding the larger, would be not merely very irrelevant in the circumstances, but also very unfair. Such, however, is the style of statement to which the author of the