

Thus, on both continents, gigantic reptiles long time swayed the sceptre over the entire animal creation. But their empire was approaching its end. One of those throes of Nature, through which new annexations of land to the continent were effected, ushered in the closing stage of Mesozoic Time. The conditions of life were changed; all the peculiar types whose history we have traced dropped out of existence, and mammals assumed the reins of empire. Turtles received accessions of numbers, and serpents now first uncoiled their sinuous lengths, while batrachians made the bayous and marshes resonant with the varied piping of a myriad voices.

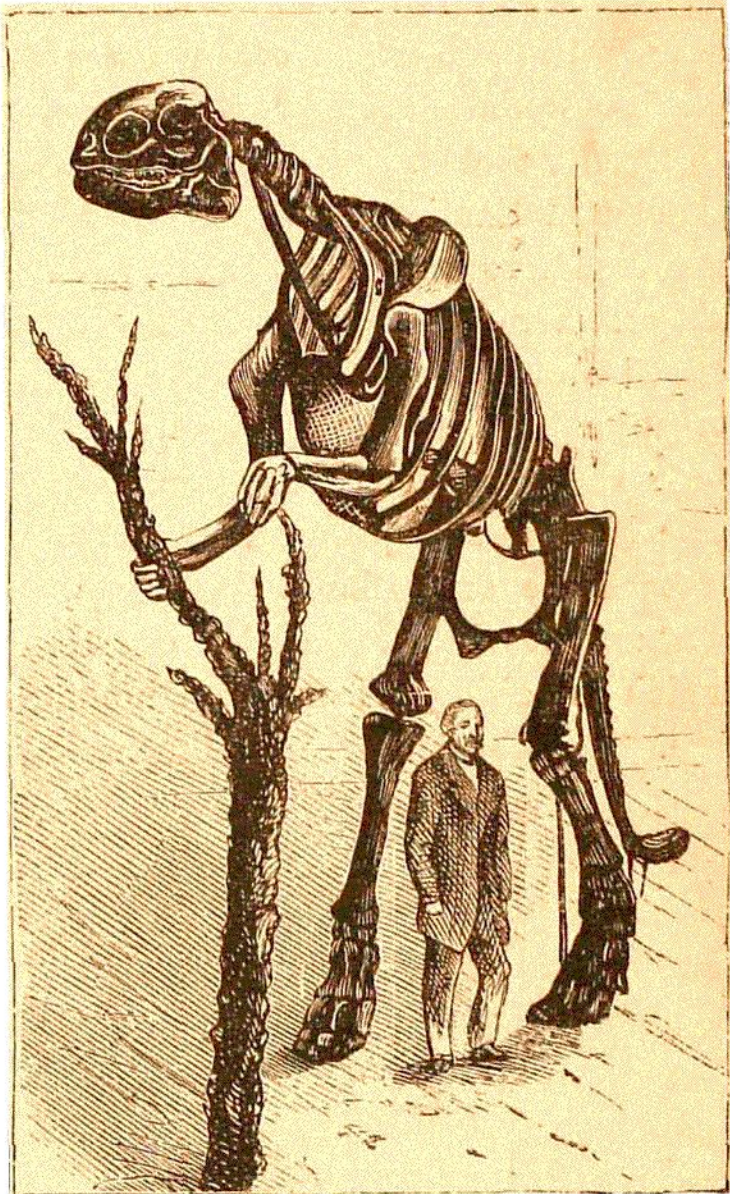


Fig. 76. The Hadrosaurus.

Among the latter a salamander, known as *Andrias Scheuchzeri*, has attracted most attention, in consequence of having for a long time been regarded as the skeleton of a man, who thus, by the fossilization of his remains, was supposed to attest the reality of the Deluge of Noah.

Such is a hasty glance at the Age of Reptiles. Success-