

of greater length than the facts justify. After a personal and critical examination of the specimen, however, I feel bound to say that this prodigiously elongated creature, that visitors have so long seen coiled about one of the apartments of the museum, is as near a representation of the truth of nature as is likely to be attained. The skeleton possesses one hundred and eighteen vertebræ, of which ninety-one are genuine, and twenty-one factitious. The neck embraces six vertebræ. There are thirty-six pairs of ribs. The cranium is six feet long; the jaws are armed each with five grinding teeth on each side, preceded by two premolars and one incisor on each side of the middle. The epiphyses of the vertebræ—that is, their detached extremities—being unconsolidated with the bodies of the vertebræ, prove that the individual was still immature. This examination was kindly authorized by Col. Wood, the proprietor. We are indebted to Dr. Koch, of St. Louis, for the first restoration of the Zeuglodon, a specimen of which was exhibited, a number of years ago, under the name of *Hydrarchos*, or Water-king, in Barnum's Museum in New York.

Far toward the northwest, on the tributaries of the Upper Missouri, were the cemeteries of American quadrupeds. The shores of the great inland seas already described seem to have been the favorite haunts of the dominant tribes of the continent, while swarms of humbler creatures bathed in their waters, or burrowed in the mud at the bottom. At first these waters possessed all the saltness of the sea of which they were the residuum; but, by degrees, the perpetual drainage, replaced only by fresh waters from the clouds, changed them first to a brackish, and then to a fresh condition. This progressive change is shown by the varying nature of the fossil remains imbedded in the sediments. At the bottom we find the relics of marine animals; in the