

overtake and capture such large and powerful fishes, as from the enormous size of its teeth and jaws, we may conclude it was intended to devour:

The head and teeth, (Pl. 20.) point out the near relations of this animal to the Monitors; and the proportions maintained throughout all the other parts of the skeleton warrant the conclusion, that this monstrous Monitor of the ancient deep was five and twenty feet in length, although the longest of its modern congeners does not exceed five feet. The head here represented measures four feet in length, that of the largest Monitor does not exceed five inches. The most skilful Anatomist would be at a loss to devise a series of modifications, by which a Monitor could be enlarged to the length and bulk of a Grampus,\* and at the same time be fitted to move with strength and rapidity through the waters of the sea; yet in the fossil before us, we shall find the genuine characters of a Monitor maintained throughout the whole skeleton, with such deviations only as tended to fit the animal for its marine existence.

The Mosasaurus had scarcely any character in common with the Crocodile, but resembled the Iguanas, in having an apparatus of teeth fixed on the pterygoid bone, (Pl. 20, k.) and placed in the roof of its mouth, as in many

\* The Grampus is from 20 to 25 feet long, and very ferocious, feeding on seals and porpoises as well as on fishes.