

occupying, as it were, a middle station between the Cetaceans and Ophidians, may be regarded, therefore, as the *dragons* par excellence.

These, then, are the animals that I conjecture may not improbably be still in existence in the subterranean ocean; I shall now, therefore, bring forward some arguments, independent of what I have alleged from Holy Scripture, which seem to afford grounds for such an hypothesis.

It has been calculated that the depth of the sea in any part does not exceed 30,000 feet, or a little more than five miles; this, compared with the diameter of our globe, about 8000 miles, may be regarded as nothing. What a vast space then, supposing it really hollow, may be contained in its womb, not only for an abundant reservoir of waters, but for sources of the volcanic action, which occasionally manifests itself in various parts, both of the ocean and terra firma. Reasoning from analogy, and from that part of the globe which falls under our inspection, it will appear not improbable that this vast space should not be altogether destitute of its peculiar inhabitants. We know that there are numerous animals, on the surface of the globe, that conceal themselves in various places in the day time, and only make their appearance in the night. It would, therefore, be perfectly consistent with the general course of God's proceedings, and in exact harmony with the general features of creation, that he should have peopled the abyss with creatures fitted, by their organization and structure, to live there: and it would not be wonderful that some of the Saurian race, especially the marine ones, should have their station in the subterranean waters, which would sufficiently account for their never having been seen except in a fossil state.

The organization of many reptiles favours the idea of their being fitted for a subterranean habitation. It has been observed of them, that they not only perceive objects