

which means they can be elevated or depressed at the will of the animal. They not only have often many rows of teeth in their mouth, but even their palate, their throat, and their tongue are sometimes thus armed.* And this accumulation of teeth is not confined to the fiercest monsters of the deep, but even some herbivorous fishes have several rows of molar teeth. An instance of this is afforded by a jaw of some unknown fish, perhaps a Siluridan, in my possession, in which there are six rows of such teeth, the anterior ones being somewhat conical. This specimen was found on the shore of one of the lakes in Canada, and belonged to a fish which the friend who gave it to me stated was much relished by the Indians.

Many of the organs of the members of this Class are more independent of each other than those of warm-blooded animals; they seem less connected with common centres, in this respect resembling vegetables, for they may be more materially altered, more desperately wounded, and more completely destroyed, without any mortal effect. Many of their parts, as the fins, if mutilated, can be reproduced. Indeed a fish, as well as a reptile, can be cut, torn, or dismembered without appearing to suffer materially. The shark, from which a harpoon has taken a portion of its flesh, pursues his prey with the usual avidity, if his blood has not been too much exhausted. We see in this a merciful provision, that animals so much exposed to injury should suffer less from it than those which are better protected, either by their situation or structure.

Fishes are amongst the most long-lived animals. A pike was taken, in 1754, at Kaiserslautern, which had a ring fastened to the gill covers, from which it appeared to have been put into the pond of that castle by the order of

* Figs. 83, 84.