

In the memoir and correspondence of the late Sir James Edward Smith, just published, there is a letter from Dr. Goodenough, Bishop of Carlisle, referring to the American sea serpent, from which the following passage is extracted :—“ The famous American serpent is at length ascertained to be no fiction. It seems that there has always been a rumour of this animal: Aldrovandus mentions it among others. However, it has never been caught and described. It has now been seen by three hundred people at once, and hopes are entertained that ere long this will be taken. It is of immense length and size.”—*Nov.* 1819.

I cannot conclude these brief observations on the progressive development of organic life on our planet, without remarking, that if man were recently created, as geologists generally maintain, this circumstance alone affords strong presumptive evidence, to those who admit the doctrine of final causes, and of a presiding intelligence, that the ancient condition of the globe, and the changes then in operation, were very different from what we observe at present; or, in other words, that the world was not then prepared by the Creator for the residence of man.

---

Dr. Jacob Bigelow of Boston, and present a mass of evidence, sufficient to establish any fact which is capable of being substantiated by human testimony. Almost every year since has added to the amount of evidence; and the present summer (1833) has been particularly fruitful in such testimony. Attempts to capture or kill these extraordinary animals have proved, hitherto, abortive; but, in some more fortunate conjuncture, the Eastern seamen, proverbial for their intrepidity and dexterity in hunting the whale, will yet bring in the sea serpent, or the animal, whatever it may be, that has borne that name. Mr. Bakewell's ingenious conjecture, that it may be a Saurian, agrees, however, much better with the supposition that it is a Plesiosaurus than an Ichthyosaurus, as the short neck of the latter does not correspond with the ordinary appearance of the sea serpent.

*September,* 1833.

B. S.