

of the specimen, which he conveyed in triumph to his house. Unfortunately, the canon of the cathedral, which stands on the mountain, claimed the fossil in right of being lord of the manor, and succeeded, by a most unjust and expensive law-suit, in obtaining this precious relic (Tab. 47). It remained in his possession for years, and Hoffmann died without regaining his treasure, or receiving any compensation. The French Revolution broke out, and the armies of the Republic advanced to the gates of Maestricht; the town was bombarded, but by desire of the committee of *savans*, who accompanied the French troops, the artillery was not allowed to play on that part of the city in which the celebrated fossil was known to be contained. In the meanwhile the canon, shrewdly suspecting why such peculiar favour was shown to his residence, concealed the specimen in a secret vault; but when the city was taken, the French authorities compelled him to give up his ill-gotten prize, which was immediately transmitted to the *Jardin des Plantes*, at Paris, where it still forms one of the most striking objects in that magnificent collection. It is but just to add, that the relatives of Hoffmann were rewarded by the French commissioners. The model of this specimen in my museum was presented to me by Baron Cuvier; it consists of the jaws, teeth, palate-bone, vertebræ, and *os quadratum*, a bone possessed by some reptiles, and in which the auditory cells are contained. There are portions of jaws