

formation, — for it occurs in a limestone, varying from twenty to seventy feet in thickness, which immediately overlies that of the Onondago deposit, though still more fragmentary than the first, for its length is only two three eighths inches, — maintains throughout a nearly equal thickness, — a circumstance in itself indicative of considerable size ; and in positive bulk it almost rivals the Onondago one. Of the Lower Silurian and Bala fishes no descriptions or figures have yet appeared. And such, up to the present time, is the testimony derived from this department of Geology, so far as I have been able to determine it, regarding the size of the ancient Silurian vertebrata. “No organism,” says Professor Oken, “is, nor ever has one been, created, which is not microscopic.” The Professor’s pupils and abettors, the assertors of the development hypothesis, appeal to the geological evidence as altogether on *their* side in the case ; and straightway a few witnesses enter court. But, lo ! among the expected dwarfs, there appear individuals of more than the average bulk and stature.

Still, however, the question of organization remains. Did these ancient Placoid fishes stand high or low in the scale ? According to the poet, “What can we reason but from what we know ?” We are acquainted with the Placoid fishes of the present time ; and from these only, taking analogy as our guide, can we form any judgment regarding the rank and standing of their predecessors, the Placoids of the geologic periods. But the consideration of this question, as it is specially one on which the later assertors of the development hypothesis concentrate themselves, I must, to secure the space necessary for its discussion, defer till my next chapter. Meanwhile, I am conscious I owe an apology to the reader for what he must deem tedious minuteness of description, and a