

Mr. Murchison were forwarded to Agassiz. They were much more imperfect than some which I have since disinterred, and to restore the entire animal from them would require powers such as those possessed by Cuvier in the past age, and by the naturalist of Neufchatel in the present. Broken as they were, however, Agassiz at once decided from them that the creature must have been a fish.

I have placed one of the specimens before me. Imagine the figure of a man rudely drawn in black on a gray ground, the head cut off at the shoulders, the arms spread at full, as in the attitude of swimming, the body rather long than otherwise, and narrowing from the chest downwards, one of the legs cut away at the hip-joint, and the other, as if to preserve the balance, placed directly under the centre of the figure,

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agree in reading after the same manner the same scrap of manuscript, and in deriving the same piece of information from it. The writer experienced on this occasion a somewhat similar feeling. His specimens seemed written in a character cramp enough to suggest those doubts regarding original meaning which lead to various readings; but the geologist and the naturalist agreed in perusing them after exactly the same fashion—the one in London, the other in Neufchatel. Such instances give confidence in the findings of science. The decision of Mr. Murchison I subjoin in his own words—his numbers refer to various specimens of *Pterichthys*: “As to your fossils 1, 2, 3, we know nothing of them here, (London,) except that they remind me of the occipital fragments of some of the Caithness fishes. I do not conceive they can be referrible to any reptile; for, if not fishes, they more closely approach to crustaceans than to any other class. I conceive, however, that Agassiz will pronounce them to be fishes, which, together with the curious genus *Cephalaspis* of the Old Red Sandstone, form the connecting links between crustaceans and fishes. Your specimens remind one in several respects of the *Cephalaspis*.”