

tion was by no means complete. The paddle-like arms were placed further below the shoulders than in any actual species; and I had transferred, by mistake, to the creature's upper side, some of the plates of the *Cocosteus*. Still the type was unequivocally that of the *Pterichthys*. The secretary of the Society, Mr. Patrick Duff, an excellent geologist to whose labors, in an upper formation of the Old Red Sandstone, I shall have afterwards occasion to refer, questioned as he well might, some of the details of the figure, and we corresponded for several weeks regarding it, somewhat in the style of Jonathan Oldbuck and his antiquarian friend, who succeeded in settling the meaning of two whole words, in an antique inscription, in little more than two years. Most of the other members looked upon the entire drawing, so strange did the appearance seem, as embodying a fiction of the same class with those embodied in the pictured griffins and unicorns of mythologic Zoölogy; and, in amusing themselves with it, they bestowed on its be-tailed and bepaddled figure, as if in anticipation of Agassiz, the name of the draughtsman. Not many months after, however, a *bona fide Pterichthys* turned up in one of the newly discovered beds of Nairnshire, and the Association ceased to joke, and began to wonder. I merely mention the circumstance in connection with a right challenged, at the late meeting of the British Association at Glasgow, by a gentleman of Elgin, to be regarded as the original discoverer of the *Pterichthys*. I am, of course, far from supposing that the discovery was not actually made, but regret that it should have been kept so close a secret at a time when it might have stood the other discoverer of the creature in such stead.

The exact place of the ichthyolites in the system was still to fix. I was spending a day, early in the winter of 1839