

was fortunately led to discover them anew in her possession. The most abundant organism of the group was a variety of *Pterichthys* — the sixth species of this very curious genus now discovered in the Old Red Sandstones of Scotland; and, as the Doctor had been lucky enough to find out for himself, some years before, that the scales of the *Holoptychius* were oyster shells, he now ascertained, with quite as little assistance from without, that the *Pterichthys* must have been surely a huge beetle. As a beetle, therefore, he figured and described it in the pages of a Glasgow topographical publication — *Fife Illustrated*. True, the characteristic elytra were wanting, and some six or seven tubercle plates substituted in their room; nor could the artist, with all his skill, supply the creature with more than two legs; but ingenuity did much for it notwithstanding; and by lengthening the snout, insect-like, into a point — by projecting an eye, insect-like, on what had mysteriously grown into a head — by rounding the body, insect-like, until it exactly resembled that of the large “twilight shard” — by exaggerating the tubercles seen in profile on the paddles until they stretched out, insect-like, into bristles — and by carefully sinking the tail, which was not insect-like, and for which no possible use could be discovered at the time — the Doctor succeeded in making the *Pterichthys* of Dura Den a very respectable beetle indeed. In a later publication, an Essay on the Geology of Fifeshire, which appeared in September last in the *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*, he states, after referring to his former description, that among the higher geological authorities some were disposed to regard the creature as an extinct crustaceous animal, and some as belonging to a tribe closely allied to the *Chelonia*. Agassiz, as the writer of these chapters ventured some months ago to predict, has since pronounced it a fish — a *Pterichthys* specifically