

reptilian in its character. And about the same time the remains of a reptile since known as the Archegosaurus were found in a coal-field in Rhenish Bavaria. The Archegosaurus seems to have been a strange-looking creature,—half-saurian, half-batrachian, of comparatively small size, with two staring eyes set close together in the middle of a flat triangular skull, and furnished with limbs terminating in distinct toes, but so slim and weak, 'that they could have served,' says Von Meyer, 'only for swimming or creeping.'¹ It is stated in the *Lake Superior* of Agassiz, that in a shallow expanse of the river into which the lake falls, skirted by flat forest-covered banks, and in which a long series of dreary mud-flats are covered by from a few inches to a few feet of water, there occurs a large gill-furnished salamander (*Menobranchus*), which the Indians call the 'walking fish,' and which even to them is a great curiosity. It swims wherever there is sufficient depth of water, and creeps over the mud-flats where there is not; and, compared with the swift and powerful *Lepidosteus*, a reptile-fish of the same stream, it is a stupid, sluggish, inert creature, safe only in its uselessness and the repulsiveness of its appearance. And, judging from the feebleness of its limbs, and the shortness of its ribs, which resemble, says Professor Ower, those of the half-lunged, half-gilled *Proteus*, such seems to have been the character of the Archegosaurus. Its contemporary, the American *Cheirotherium*, as shown by its well-defined footprints, must have been a stronger-limbed and larger reptile,—a batrachian heightened by a dash of the crocodile; and, though probably often a dweller in the water, the only vestiges of it which remain show that it must have occasionally stepped out of its river or lake, to take an airing on the banks. Such is nearly the sum-total of our knowledge regarding the reptiles of the Carbonifer-

¹ The Archegosauri are related to the Batrachians and Sauroid fishes, according to Owen—*Siluria*, new edition, p. 363.—W. S. S.