

ous period.¹ Like mammals in the preceding Secondary ages, they formed so inconspicuous a feature of the fauna of the time, that until very recently it escaped notice, and so was not recognised as a feature at all. So far as we yet know, the great Secondary division, in which reptiles, both in size and number, received their fullest development, had but few genera of mammals,—a small pouched animal, and small insectivorous ones : so far as we yet know, the great Palæozoic division, in which fishes, both in size and number, received their fullest development, had but its two genera of reptiles, both allied, apparently, to the humble batrachian order. The reigning dynasty of the one period, though the mammal was present, was not that of the mammal, but of the reptile : the reigning dynasty of the other period, though the reptile was present, was not that of the reptile, but of the fish.

The fishes of the Coal Measures, in especial the reptile fishes, were in truth very high types of their class. I have already incidentally said, that with the humble *Menobranchus* or salamander of the great North American lakes and their tributaries, there is a true reptile fish associated ;—an order of creatures of which, so far as is yet known, there exists in the present creation only a single genus. It would almost seem as if the *Lepidosteus* had been spared, amid the wreck of genera and species, to serve us as a key by which to unlock the marvels of the ichthyology of those remote periods of geologic history appropriated to the dynasty of the fish. 'This wonderful creature is covered by scales, not of a horny substance, like those of the fish com-

¹ Lord Enniskillen possesses a fossil reptile allied to the *Cheirotherium* from the Yorkshire coal-fields, the *Parabatrachus Colei* (Owen). A Labyrinthodont reptile, *Baphates planiceps* (Owen), has been found in the Nova Scotia coal-fields. Also footmarks of sauroid reptiles have been discovered in Scotland by Mr. Hugh Miller, and in the Forest of Dean by Mr. C. Bromby.—W. S. S.