

mon at our tables, but of solid bone, enamelled, like the human teeth, on their outer surfaces. Its own teeth are planted in double rows of unequal size, the larger being of a reptilian, the smaller of an ichthyic character; and the front teeth of the lower jaw are received, as in the alligator, into sheath-like cavities in the upper jaw,—another reptilian trait. Its vertebral column, wholly unlike that of other fishes, each of whose vertebræ consists of a double cup, is formed of vertebræ one end of which consists of a cup and another of a ball,—a characteristic of the snake: it possesses true gills, like all other fishes; but then it also possesses a peculiar form of cellular air-bladder, opening into the throat by a glottis, which, according to Agassiz, our highest authority, performs respiratory functions. The *Lepidosteus*, says Sir Charles Lyell, in describing, in his second series of travels in the United States, an individual which he had seen in sailing across Lake Solitary, leap like a trout or salmon over the surface, in pursuit of its prey,—‘the *Lepidosteus*, whose hard shining scales are so strong and difficult to pierce that it can scarcely be shot, can live longer out of the water than any other fish of the United States, having a large cellular swimming-bladder, which is said almost to serve the purpose of a real lung.’ Further, we find Agassiz stating, in his *Lake Superior*, that the *Lepidosteus* is one of the swiftest of fishes, darting like an arrow through the waters, and overcoming with facility even the rapids of the Niagara. He adds further, that when at the latter place, there was a living specimen caught for him,—the first living specimen he had ever seen; and that ‘to his great delight, as well as to his utter astonishment, he saw this fish moving its head upon its neck freely, right and left, and upwards, as a saurian, and as no other fish in creation does.’ The true native Yankee has a mode wholly his own, and somewhat redolent of the revolver and the bowie-knife, of describing the peculiar immunities and high standing of