

round about ; his scales are his pride, shut up together as a close seal. In his neck remaineth strength ; his heart is as firm as a stone, yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone. The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold ; the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon. He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood.'

In the same waters as the formidable and gigantic Holoptychian genus there lived a smaller but still very formidable reptile fish, now known as the *Megalichthys*,—a fish whose body was covered with enamelled quadrangular scales, and its head with enamelled plates, both of so exquisite a polish, that they may still be occasionally seen in the shale of a coal-pit, catching the rays of the sun, and reflecting them across the landscape, as is often done by bits of highly glazed earthenware or glass. It was accompanied by another and still smaller, but very handsome, and scarce less highly enamelled, genus of the sauroid class,—the *Diplopterus*. And if, after the lapse of so many ages, their armour still retains a polish so high, we may be well assured that brightly must it have glittered to the sun when the creatures leaped of old into the air, like the *Lepidosteus* of Lake Solitary, after some vagrant ephemera or wandering dragon-fly ; and brightly must the reflected light have flashed into the dark recesses of the old overhanging forest that rose thick and tangled over the lake or river side. The other ichthyic contemporaries of these fishes were very various in size and aspect. About half their number belonged to the same ganoidal or bone-covered order as the Holoptychius and *Megalichthys*, and the other half to that placoidal order represented in our existing seas by the sharks and rays. The lakes, rivers, and estuaries abounded, perhaps exclusively, in ganoids, such as the *Palæoniscus*, a small, handsome, well-proportioned genus, containing several species,—the *Eurynotus*, a rather longer and deeper genus, formed somewhat in the proportions of the modern bream,—and