

imposing in its proportions than the kraken of Norway, is, as I have said, a very curious animal,—constituting, as it does, that highest link among Mollusca, in which creatures without a true back-bone or a true brain approach nearest, in completeness of structure and the sagacity of their instincts, to the vertebrata. All my readers on the sea-coast, especially such of them as live near sandy bays, or in the neighbourhood of salmon-fishings, must have frequently seen the species most abundant in our seas,—the common loligo or *strollach* (*Loligo vulgaris*); and almost all of them must have the recollection of having regarded it, when they first stumbled upon it in some solitary walk, as an extraordinary monster, worthy of the first place in a museum. ‘The cuttle-fish,’ says Kirby, in his Bridgewater Treatise, ‘is one of the most wonderful works of the Creator.’ We have no creature at all approaching it in size, that departs so widely from the familiar every-day type of animal life, whether developed on the land or in the water.

A man buried to the neck in a sack, and prepared for such a race as Tennant describes in his *Anster Fair*, is an exceedingly strange-looking animal, but not half so strange-looking as a *strollach*. Let us just try to improve him into one, and give, in this way, some idea of the animal to those unacquainted with it. First, then, the sack must be brought to a point at the bottom, as if the legs were sewed up tightly together, and the corners left projecting so as to form two floppy fins; and further, the sack must be a sack of pink, thickly speckled with red, and tolerably open at the other end, where the neck and head protrude. So much for the changes on the sack; but the changes on the parts that rise out of the sack must be of a much more extraordinary character. We must first obliterate the face, and then, fixing on the crown of the head a large beak of black horn, crooked as that of the parrot, we must remove the mouth to the opening between the mandibles. Around the broad base of the beak