

had a head twelve inches in length, indicating a "snapping turtle" of the formidable length of six feet. The power of such an animal may be estimated by comparison with the familiar "snapper" of modern times.

But the most abundant of all the Cretaceous reptiles of the Atlantic coast were Crocodilians. At the time of which we speak they must have literally swarmed along what is now the river-front of Philadelphia. They peopled every pool and lagoon along the cretaceous shore of Pennsylvania. The Deinosaurs, however, were the great feature of the bayou and the estuary. Like their kindred of the Old World, they rivaled in bulk the yet future mammoth and mastodon. "They exceeded these," says Professor Cope, "in their *bizarre* and portentous aspects; for some have chiefly squatted, some leaped on the hind limbs like the kangaroo, and some stalked on erect legs like the great birds, with small arms hanging uselessly by their sides, and with bony visage surveying land and water from their great elevation."

One of the most remarkable of these reptiles was the *Laelaps* (*L. aquilunguis*, Cope), a carnivorous kangaroo-like quadruped twenty-three feet in length. It seemed a rude attempt of Nature to realize the notion of a bird in the framework of an alligator. It walked entirely on its hind limbs, or leaped like the kangaroo. "Its toes were long and slender, and probably similar in number and form to those of a bird of prey. They were armed with flattened hooked claws, which measured from ten inches to a foot in length, and, like those of the eagle, were adapted for grabbing and tearing prey. The teeth were adjuncts in this appropriation of animal life; they were curved, knife-shaped, and crimped or serrate on the margin, and adapted like scissors for cutting" (Fig. 75). This was the most formidable land carnivore of the continent, and second to