

ostrich." "I have already referred," says Hugh Miller, "to flying dragons, real existence of the Oolitic period, that were quite as extraordinary of type, if not altogether so huge of bulk, as those with which the Seven Champions of Christendom used to do battle; and here we are introduced to birds that were scarcely less gigantic than the roc of Sinbad the sailor." I might add to Miller's remarks, that the Bar Yuchné, that enormous bird of the Talmudic legend, seems to find identification here.

But I must hasten to conclude these remarks, already too long. They must necessarily convey but a very faint idea of the boundless field of interesting and pleasurable inquiry awaiting the student of Natural History; still, I trust they will not be without effect in leading into this field, some of those who have not hitherto entered at all. To such, my concluding words would be in the accents of caution and advice. I would say, "You must needs fearlessly concede to modern science all that is claimed for it, to this extent, that in its dealings with the great physical powers or elementary forces which pervade and govern the material world, it has been led or even forced into a bolder form and method of inquiry—that inductions of a higher class have been reached, and generalizations attained, going far beyond those subordinate laws in which science was formerly satisfied to rest,—that the precision and refinements of modern experimental research strikingly distinguish it from that of any anterior time,—that physical researches generally in our own day have a larger scope and more connected aim, experiment being no longer tentative merely, but suggested by views which stretch beyond the immediate result, and hold in constant prospect, those general laws which work in the universe at large. But let it be ever remembered that there is also exhibited in our own day a marked fondness for what is new and difficult and unintelligible in philosophy—a spirit that takes pleasure in stigmatizing as hindrances to truth in physical science, all such opinions as are fostered by ancient and popular belief, including those which assume Scriptural authority for their foundation. In their too hot zeal against dogmatical authority, we find some falling into the opposite rashness of lending their authority and favour to

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