

"Let him conceive an animal whose body is a *closed bag* containing the viscera, connected with digestion, circulation and reproduction, furnished with a head and staring eyes ; that upon the head are supported numerous and complex organs of locomotion used as feet or organs of prehension ; moreover, that in the centre of the locomotive apparatus, thus singularly situated is a strong and sharp horny beak, resembling that of a parrot ; and he will rudely picture to himself a Cephalopod."

The Cuttlefishes are organized for a purely predacious life, and their structure is such that no animal of their own size can be entangled in their arms without almost a certainty of destruction. The body in some of the species is nearly as round as a ball ; in others it is flattened and elliptical, while in many species it is elongated or cylindrical, having the mouth surrounded with its circle of arms at one end. The arms are strong, perfectly flexible, and with the whole of their inner surface covered with suckers which adhere to whatever object the animal attaches them, with such force that they will tear away the piece of flesh to which they are fastened rather than relinquish their hold. "If, says the distinguished Naturalist whom we have above quoted, the Poulpe but touch its prey it is enough : once a few of those tenacious suckers get firm hold, the swiftness of the fish is unavailing, as it is soon trammelled on all sides and dragged to the mouth of its destroyer ; the shell of the lobster or of the crab is a vain protection, for the hard and crooked beak of the Cephalopod easily breaks to pieces the frail armour ; and even man himself, while bathing, has been entwined by the strong arms of gigantic species and struggled in vain against a grasp so pertinacious." \*

The Cephalopoda are divided by Professor Owen into two orders, the DIBRANCHIATA, having two gills, and the TETRABRANCHIATA, with four gills. Of the last mentioned order there is only one species, the celebrated Nautilus (*Nautilus Pompilius*), known to be living in the whole world. Yet in the fossil state there are more than 1400 species whose remains have been found in the various formations. Here we have an instance of the almost total extermination of not merely a species or a genus but of nearly a whole order of animals. No doubt the Nautilus itself will in course of time cease to exist, and then the order TETRABRANCHIATA will no longer have a living representative upon earth.

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\* Thomas Rymer Jones : General Outline of the Animal Kingdom ; 1st Ed., page 432.