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THE DEVIL-FISH IN NEWFOUNDLAND  
WATERS.

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THE animal kingdom is divided by naturalists into four provinces: Radiata, or rayed animals; Mollusca, or pulpy animals; Articulata, or jointed animals; Vertebrata, or backboneed animals. At present we are concerned only with the second of these provinces—the Mollusca. Cuvier was the first who applied the term Mollusca (from *Mollis*, soft) to this great department of the animal kingdom. In it are included those animals which have no skeleton, internal or external, whose bodies are soft and generally enclosed in a shell. Thus within the limits of this extensive province are included our ordinary shell-fish, such as oysters and mussels, as well as cuttle-fishes, which also possess a “shell.” Agassiz divides the Mollusca into three classes: Acephala, Gasteropoda, and Cephalopoda.

The last named is the class to which the remarkable specimens I wish to describe belong. The term Cephalopoda signifies “head-footed” Mollusca, and is most appropriate and descriptive. Their distinguishing characteristic is a central mass or head, from which radiate tentacular appendages called arms by some naturalists and feet by others. These arms serve a double purpose—they enable the animal to seize and hold its prey, being covered with rows of sucking disks, which when applied to any surface adhere, at the will of the animal, with immense force, so that it can readily draw whatever it grasps within reach of the powerful horny beak. But it can also use its arms as instruments of locomotion, and walk