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THE COLOSSAL CEPHALOPODS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC.

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In a former article published in the NATURALIST (vol. viii, p. 167, March, 1874) the writer gave a brief account of several gigantic cuttle-fishes, or "squids," which have been observed or captured at or near Newfoundland,¹ and in an earlier volume (vii, p. 91) Dr. Packard gave an account of previous captures of similar huge Cephalopods on the coasts of North America and Europe. The existence of several distinct species of these colossal ten-armed Cephalopods has been satisfactorily demonstrated in the various papers that have been written upon the subject both in Europe and America. Most of the specimens hitherto obtained have been taken in the Atlantic Ocean, but at least one gigantic species (*Enoploteuthis unguiculata*) inhabits the Indian Ocean, while the origin of some of the described specimens is not known.

In this article I propose to describe portions of five different specimens of these monsters, now in my possession, and also to give some account of five other specimens that have been observed on our side of the Atlantic.

The five specimens that I have been able to study evidently belong to two quite distinct species, both of which belong to the genus *Architeuthis* of Steenstrup (or *Megaloteuthis* of Kent). The largest of these is represented only by the jaws of two

¹ See also an article on this subject by the writer, in the "American Journal of Science," vol. vii, p. 158, Feb., 1874; and letters from Mr. Alexander Murray in the NATURALIST, vol. 2, p. 120, Feb., 1874.