

inferiors. Hugh Miller, speaking of the living representatives of these fossil fish, says :—"They seem to have been spared amid the wreck of genera and species to serve as a key by which to unlock the marvels of ichthyology of those remote periods of geological history appropriated to the dynasty of fish." I am inclined to think that my specimen scorned the ordinary food of the other fish, and died from inanition, as I never could induce him, while I was watching, to approach while they were feeding, and if he did satisfy himself at all, it must have been under cover of darkness. However, as he did not appear emaciated at his death, he may have subsisted on animalculæ in the fresh water from time to time supplied. The ordinary pike and dorée I never attempted to keep, and it is almost needless for me to say that brook trout will not live in any ordinary aquarium. The "Shiner" is also too delicate for general keeping and requires highly aerated water.

I have had almost all kinds of small fry, known as "minnows," in my aquarium, consisting of young chub, dace and minnows. They are very lively and become in a short time accustomed to their confined quarters, but from their delicate formation I would never recommend them as permanent inmates. There is one exception, however; that is the barred, or black minnow, which is very hardy and a very amusing fish to watch. Sometimes motionless on the bottom, as if wrapped in deep meditation; at other times balancing himself in the water, he keeps up a continual flapping of his ventral fins, working them like a fly-wheel, with apparently no other object than exercise. At other times, he darts about from side to side, and if more than one of these minnows are occupants they seem to exchange ideas, as the rest of his own species sail about conjointly with him.

Moving about, as I have done, from place to place, my Aquarium occupying the safest place in my baggage and being the first thing attended to after unpacking, I have had opportunities of stocking it from various waters, and when I went to reside for a short time at Buckingham I obtained one day, when fishing in a little trout stream, back of the village, a small specimen of the Bull-head, one of the very few that I have ever taken. He was carefully consigned to my Aquarium but only lived a few days, owing probably, to his transfer from the clear, crystal waters of that running stream to the narrow compass of