THE ROMANTIC AND SCIENTIFIC

Theories Regarding This Extinct Monster-What Geology Tells us About it.

ing their intuition of dragon kindled the Apeculiar species of dragon kindled the cowned hastlisk, the terror of both men cowned hastlisk, the terror of both men cowned hastlisk, the terror of both men council hastlisk, the terror of both men cowned hastlisk, the terror of both men council hastlisk, the terror of both men cowned hastlisk, the terror of both men council hastlisk, the terror of both men cowned hastlisk, the terror of both men council hastlisk, the terror of both men cowned hastlisk, the terror of both men council hastles whales.

While such creatures as these enjoyed the dominion of the hand and sea, another class tloated heavily through the air. The fossil remains of the perodactyl formed for some time a puzzle for geologists, who, perhaps, considered that the amnouncement of flying dragons would be carrying their wonders a little too far, Cuvier, however. of the hot zones. The Scalds of Northern of the hot zones. The Sealds of Northern Europe and the romancers of the South ried with each other in illustrating, and entrageously illustrating the popular fancy of the dragon, while in merry old England "nobody was anybody," as Mr. Brokip says, "who had not slain his dragon." The first recorded instance of grown an encounter is that of Sir Bevis of such an encounter is that of Sir Bevis of Hampton, the following being a description of the cheerful wildfowl which he had to meet "

When the dragon that foul ye Had a synthe of Syr Bevis, He aste uppe a loude crye, A sythadde thundered in the skye; He turned by shodye toward the son. Yews greater than any tonne; Hys scales were brighter than the glas, Aod harder they were than anye brass; Bewesn bys sholder and bys taylo Was 40 fote, without fayle.

Spencer's diagon ("Facry Queen',) had syngs like says, cruel rending clawes, you teeth and breathe of smothering smoke and sulphur." In all the descripsmoke and surport. In all the deathprions, different in detail as they are, there appears, however, the one unchanging idea, that the dragon was a flying monster, with enormous strength, great fighting qualities and a generally pestiferous character. The typical idea, except in the matter of wings, lingers, it may be added, in the emblazonment of the

FLAG OF THE CHINESE.

How long the dragon might have "fired in song and story" under ordinary sireumstances, there is, of course, no saying. Like the knights errant who slew them they were put out of countenance by ridicule. The dragon of Wantley was more fatal to the brood than the basilisk, and after the exploit of More of More Hall, the creature appears to have sunk into the earth and disap-

The dragon of Wantley churches ate The dragon of Wantrey entremes are (Heused to come of a Sunday; Whole congregations were to him A dish of sallmagund!; Parsons were his black puddings, and Pataldermen his capons, And his tid-bit the collection plate Brimful of Birmingham ha'pence. The corporation worshipful He valued not an acc; But swallowed the mayor as leep in his chair, And pleked his teeth with the mace.

More recently Tenniel and the author of "Alice in Wonderland" have dealt another fatal blow to the mediaval

Having attempted to show what soit of creature the dragon of romance was, it will be next in order to show what science has to say about the matter. "There was a time," says W. J. Brodrip, "when reptiles not only constituted the thief tenants and most powerful possesscts of the earth, but extended their dominions over the seas. These strange and curious creatures might be called dragons, down right, enormous dragons, with bellies as big as tuns, and bigger. Thegreveled in pestiferous regions; for in the sloughs where gigantic marsh plants grew, and in the dreary bogs to which the undrained Pontine marshes would would have been the land of health, they had their lairs. In such nauseous quags these monsters roured and wallowed; there they growled their horrid loves and there they made war upon each other in the midst of the wildest convulsions of a nascent world. While this was going on upon what then passed for land, great sea dragons rushed through the Waves or sported on the surface of the ocean while flying dragons hover through

In all probability the sea dragons existed first, so they should be first attended to the sea dragons well known ed to. There were two types well known to geologists, the ichthy osuurus and ple-Blosaurus, the former of which was sometimes thirty feet in length, with an eye larger than a man's head. This creature must have presented the appearance of a large predatory abdominal fish, with a head six feet long, jaws of corresponding size, armed with shark-like teeth, a short neck and a long lizardtail. The eyes, by means of a mov ble series of plates, became a telescope or microscope at the will of the animal.

## THE PLESIOSAURUS

was a worth comrade of the other fellow. "To the head of the lizard," says Dr. Buckland, "it united the teeth of the sembling the body of a serpent, a trank and tail having the portions of a quadruped, the ribs of a chameleon and the paddles of a whale. Its motion must have been very awkward on land, and its long neck must have impeded its progress through the water, and it is

generally conceded that it lurked in shoal water along the coast, arching its long neck like a swan, and occasionally darting it down at the fish which happen-

ed to be in its neighborhood." Be-sides these denizers of the deep there was a gigantic lizard, twenty-five feet long with tour paddles instead of legs, a great oar-like tail, a head four feet long and jaws and teeth entirely draco-

It is rather difficult to get an exact idea of what the ancient dragon looked like but something can be learned. Achie but something can be learned as the resulting and as uttering a population. Of these land monsters the iguandon was not an elephantine reptile, seventy feed long—a sort of innocent dragon, who made use of his grinders in the mere mastication of vegetable food, which his brother, the megalosaurus, a little larger and a little more tun-like in form, crushed crocodiles and tortoises within its horrid jaws." The two tribes that is referred to. In mediaval my-that is referred to a fantastic animal theory the dragon is a fantastic animal theory the dragon is a fantastic animal theory the dragon is a fantastic animal through the dragon is a fantastic animal to the dragon is a fantas the dragon is a range of the chamdimense size and various shapes and dimense size and various shapes and fimmense size and various shapes and the sh was the marsh or quagmire, a particle was the marsh or remembered. They poetical fictions of the dragons of old which should be remembered. They poetical fictions of the dragons of old. No complete fossil of the megalosaurus has been found. The remains already discovered show that sometimes this diesh-eating lizard must have equalled a peculiar species of dragon kindled the A peculiar species of dragon kindled the appendix processing the process of dragons while the short of the largest of the dragons of old.

While such creatures as these enjoyed MONUMENTS, STATUARY AND A.TARS.

### SETTLED THE QUESTION.

In his hands the apparentty monstrous production of the ancient world has been converted into one of the most benutiful examples ever afforded by comparative anatomy of the harmony that per-vades all nature in the adaption of the same parts of the animal frame to infinitely varied conditions of existence. Mr. Brodrip supposes this chimera to have shuffled along the ground after the man-uer of a bat, and scuttled through the water when it had occasion to swim. When rising into the heavy air the membranous wing was extended by the bones of the fore feot, and when tired it probably suspended itself by the hind egs. The general hue of the body was legs. The general nue of the body was probably livid, and the texture of the skin shagreen-like, resembling in some degree the external tegument of a chameleon or iguana, excepting the smooth membrane of the wing. These flying reptiles—a denomination almost contradictory—had a long neck, the bill of a bind almost everything in short that bird, almost eveything, in short, that could conduce to give them a strange aspect. Like Milton's fiend, it was quali-fied for all services and all elements, and was a fit companion for the hundred reptiles that swarmed in the seas or crawled on the shores of a turbulent

The fiend Over hog, or sleep, through strait, rough, dense or rare, With head, hands, wings or feet pursues his way. And swims or sinks, or wades, or creeps, or files.

With flocks of such like creatures flying in the air, and shoals of no less hid-cous ichthyosauri and plesiosauri swarming in the ocean, and gigantic iguanadous and megalosauri crawling on the shores of the primeval lakes and rivers, air, sea and land must have been strangely tenanted in those early periods of our infant

Such, too, undoubtedly, were its dragous, and the rememberance of strange animals transmitted through long generations of what primeval man had actually seen is quite sufficient to explain the old and persistent belief in dragons. Moreover, in the survial of certain forms of reptilish life, it is evident that we now see in a small degree what our troglodyte ancestors fought with in the large. The vampire bat of the Island of Bonin bears a wonderful resemblance in habits and appearance to the descriptions of the pterodactylas furnished by the scientists. The monitor, a gigantic lizard that haunts the marshes and riversides in warm countries had only its prototype of the dra-conian monster described above. The iguandon has its miniture perpetuation in the iguana of the inundated savannahs, and there is a whole genus of dragons to be found in the winged reptiles that flit about in the East Indies. The great crocodile of the Ganges represents in some degree the amphibious dragons, and the curious student of natural history may find many dwindled represen-tatives of the old reptilian age.—Catholic Mirror.

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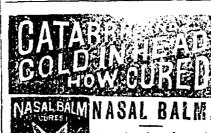
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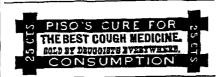
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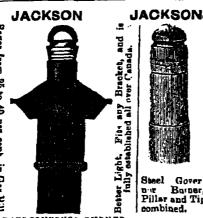
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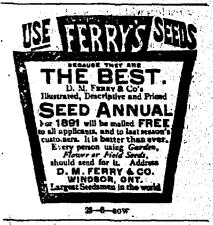
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