

monster in the world. It is round, flat, and full of branches. The Norwegian fishermen unannouncedly affirm, and without the least variation in their accounts, that when they row out several miles to sea, particularly in the hot summer days, and, by their situation (which they know by taking a view of certain points of land, expect to find 80 or 100 fathoms of water, it often happens that they do not find above 20 or 30, and sometimes less. At these places, they generally find the greatest number of fish, especially cod and ling. Their lines, they say, are no sooner out, than they may draw them up with the hooks all full of fish; by this, they judge that the kraken is at the bottom. They say this creature causes these unnatural shallows mentioned above, and prevents their sounding. These the fishermen are always glad to find, looking upon them as a means of their taking abundance of fish. There are sometimes 20 boats or more got together, throwing out their lines at a moderate distance from each other, and the only thing they have to observe is, whether the depth continues the same, which they know by their lines, or whether it grows shallower, by their seeming to have less water. If this last be the case, they find then the kraken is raising himself nearer the surface, and then it is no time for them to stay any longer; they immediately leave off fishing, take to their oars, and get away as fast as they can. When they have reached the usual depth of the place, and find themselves out of danger, they lie upon their oars, and, in a few minutes after, they see this enormous monster come up to the surface of the water. He there shows himself sufficiently, though his whole body does not appear, which, in all likelihood, no human eye ever beheld, excepting in the case of one of the young of this species, which shall afterwards be spoken of. Its back or upper part, which seems to be in appearance about an English mile and a half in circumference—some say more, but I choose the least for greater certainty—looks at first like a number of small islands, surrounded with something that floats and fluctuates like seaweed. Here and there, a large rising is observed, like sand banks, on which various kinds of small fishes are seen continually leaping about, till they roll off into the water from the sides of it. At last, several bright points or horns appear, which grow thicker and thicker the higher they rise above the surface of the water, and sometimes they stand up as high and large as the masts of middlesized vessels. It seems these are the creature's arms; and it is said, if they were to lay hold of the largest man of war, they would pull it down to the bottom. After this monster has been on the surface of the water a short time, it begins slowly to sink again, and then the danger is as great as before, because the motion of his sinking causes such a swell in the sea, and such an eddy or whirlpool, that it draws every thing down with it." The arms above described are conjectured to be tentacula, and the kraken itself to be an enormous polypus. Besides these arms, "the great Creator has also given this creature a strong and peculiar scent, which it can emit at certain times, and by means of which it beguiles and draws other fish to come in heaps about it." During many months, the kraken is continually employed in eating; during many others, in carrying on the very last process which succeeds

digestion; and this operation is so peculiarly agreeable to "the smell and taste of other fishes, that they gather together from all parts to it, and keep for that purpose directly over the kraken: he then opens his arms or horns, seizes and swallows his welcome guests, and converts them, after the due time, by digestion, into a bait for other fish of the same kind. I relate what is affirmed by many; but I cannot give so certain assurance of this particular as I can of the existence of this surprising creature, though I do not find any thing in it absolutely contrary to nature. As we can hardly expect an opportunity to examine this enormous sea animal alive, I am the more concerned that nobody embraced that opportunity, which, according to the following account, once did, and perhaps never more may offer, of seeing it entire when dead. The reverend M Fries, consistorial assessor, minister of Bodøen, in Nordland, and vicar of the college for promoting Christian knowledge, gave me, at the latter end of last year, when he was at Bergen, this relation, which I deliver again on his credit. In the year 1680, a kraken, perhaps a young and careless one, came into the water that runs between the rocks and cliffs in the parish of Alstahoug, though the general custom of that creature is to keep always several leagues from land, and therefore, of course, they must die there. It happened that its extended long arms or antennæ, which this creature seems to use like the snail, in turning about, caught hold of some trees standing near the water, which might easily have been torn up by the roots; but, besides this, as it was found afterwards, he entangled himself in some openings or clefts in the rock, and therein stuck so fast, and hung so unfortunately, that he could not work himself out, but perished and putrefied on the spot. The carcass, which was a long while decaying, and filled great part of the narrow channel, made it almost impassable by its intolerable stench." The animal seen by the reverend Donald Maclean, of Small Isles, and attested by him in a letter to the Wernerian Natural History Society of Edinburgh, though not quite so large as the Norwegian kraken, certainly tends to confirm a belief that, with due allowance for exaggeration, monsters of a larger size than philosophy has dreamed of, really do exist in the Northern seas, or, in the well-expressed phrase of doctor Barclay, in his paper relating to this animal, that there are "grounds sufficient to awaken the curiosity of naturalists, who, it were to be wished, were always men of accurate discrimination and sound judgment, not prone to indulge in a passion for the marvellous, nor apt to be infected with the silly conceit, that the knowledge of nature is already so complete, that little of importance remains to be discovered" (*Transactions of W. N. H. S.*, 431) Mr Maclean's account is not a little curious "Accordingly to my best recollection," says he, "I saw it in June, 1808, not on the coast of Eigg, but on that of Coll. Rowing along that coast, I observed, at about the distance of half a mile, an object to windward, which gradually excited astonishment. At first view, it appeared like a small rock. Knowing there was no rock in that situation, I fixed my eyes on it close. Then I saw it elevated considerably above the level of the sea, and, after a slow movement, distinctly perceived one of its eyes. Alarmed at the un-

usual appearance and magnitude of the animal, I steered so as to be at no great distance from the shore. When nearly in a line betwixt it and the shore, the monster, directing its head, which still continued above water, towards us, plunging violently under water. Certain that he was in chase of us, we plied hard to get ashore. Just as we leaped out on a rock, taking a station as high as we conveniently could, we saw it coming rapidly under water towards the stern of our boat. When within a few yards of the boat, finding the water shallow, it raised its monster-head above water, and, by a winding course, got, with apparent difficulty, clear of the creek where our boat lay, and where the monster seemed in danger of being embayed. It continued to move off with its head above water, and with the wind, for about half a mile, before we lost sight of it. Its head was rather broad, of a form somewhat oval, its neck somewhat smaller, its shoulders—if I can so term them—considerably broader; and thence it tapered towards the tail, which last it kept pretty low in the water, so that a view of it could not be taken so distinctly as I wished. It had no fin that I could perceive, and seemed to me to move progressively by undulations up and down. Its length I believed to be from 70 to 80 feet. When nearest to me, it did not raise its head wholly above water, so that, the neck being under I could perceive no shining filaments thereon, if it had any. Its progressive motion under water I took to be rapid, from the shortness of time it took to come up to the boat. When the head was above water, its motion was not near so quick; and when the head was most elevated it appeared evidently to take a view of distant objects. About the time I saw it, it was seen about the island of Canna. The crews of 13 fishing boats, I am told, were so much terrified at its appearance, that they, in a body, fled from it to the nearest creek for safety. On the passage from Rum to Canna, the crew of one boat saw it coming towards them with the wind, and its head above the water. One of the crew pronounced its head as large as a little boat, and each of its eyes as large as a plate. The men were much terrified, but the monster offered them no molestation. (*Id.* 442).—The appearance described by Mr. Maclean calls to mind the sea-serpents which have been so often reported, of late years, as seen on the coast of New England. Whatever may be the animal which has given rise to these stories, the kraken described by Pontopidan can hardly be supposed to be a real existence. The story probably grew out of the appearance of islands which have risen above the surface of the sea, and become again submerged, or of rocks only visible at particular seasons, or of floating islands, &c. The young kraken which he describes was probably some large sea-monster, whose appearance had become much exaggerated in the course of narration.

Encyclopædia Americana.

SACRED HISTORY.

ELIJAH, MY GOD JEHOVAH; Elias the Tishbite, a native of Gilead, and noted prophet. About A. M. 3092, he assured king Ahab, that for several years there should be neither dew nor rain, but as he pleased to pray for it. The drought began. Directed of God, Elijah concealed himself by the brook Cherith near the