

Gurnard.....	Trigla kumu.
Mullet.....	Mugil perusii.
Sea-mullet.....	Agonostoma forsteri.
Spotty.....	Labrichtlys bothryocosmus.
Butter-fish.....	Coridodax pullus.
Haddock.....	Gadus australis.
Red Cod.....	Lotella bacchus.
Whiting.....	Pseudophycis breviusculus.
Ling.....	Genypterus blacodes.
Tr'bot.....	Ammotretis guntheri.
Brill.....	Pseudorhombus seaphus.
Flounder or Patiki.....	Rhombosolea monopus.
Sole.....	Peltorhamphus novaezealandia.
Gar-fish.....	Hemirhamphus intermedius.
Grayling.....	Prototroctes oxyrhynchus.
Smelt.....	Retropinna richardsoni.
Kokopu.....	Galaxias fasciatus.
Minnow.....	Galaxias attenuatus.
Sand-eel.....	Gonorhynchus greyi.
Anchovy.....	Engraulis encrasicolus.
Pilchard or Sardine.....	Clupea sagax.
Sprat.....	Clupea sprattus.
Eel (tuna).....	Anguilla aucklandii.
Black Eel.....	Anguilla australis.
Conger Eel.....	Conger vulgaris.
Silver Eel.....	Congromuræna habenata.
Leatherjacket.....	Monacanthus convexirostris.
Smooth-hound.....	Mustelus antarcticus.
Sting-ray.....	Trygon thalassia.
Skate.....	Raja nasuta.

21.—A MARINE MONSTER.

By RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

[From the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle.]

The discovery of a strange sea creature near St. Elmo illustrates the truth of what I had remarked a few days earlier as to the smallness of our knowledge of the denizens of the mighty deep. The case is interesting not only in its bearing on the accounts of sea monsters of species as yet unknown, but also because it seems as though in the present case evidence of the existence of a tolerably numerous race of creatures had been obtained.

To begin with, the account is not characterized by any evidence of an attempt to excite wonder by untruths. The animal seen, though

unlike any known, would not be in itself very marvelous. Omitting details of no importance, the account runs thus:

While the boats of Captain Seymour's bark *Hope On* were on the watch for whales off the Pearl Islands (between 40 and 50 miles from Panama) the water broke a short distance away, and Captain Seymour made ready for a whale. But a head like that of a horse rose from the water and then dived. The creature was seen by all the boat's crew. Captain Seymour describes the animal as almost 20 feet in length, with a handsome horse-like head, with two unicorn-shaped horns protruding from it. The creature had four legs or double-jointed fins, a brownish hide, profusely speckled with large black spots, and a tail which appeared to be divided into parts. The creature was seen on two different days, and if whales had not been about at the time, an effort would have been made to catch it. Captain Seymour and his officers agree in considering that the creature is peculiar to the locality, and that it could easily be killed with lances and guns. It is important to notice that officers of the Pacific Mail Company state they have seen the animal on several occasions, but not so closely as did the officers and men of the *Hope On*.

The nearest account of any strange animal akin to that seen by Captain Seymour and his men is the account of a marine creature, supposed to be a sea serpent, seen in 1817 near Cape Ann, Massachusetts. Eleven witnesses of good reputation gave an oath before magistrates (one of whom had himself seen what they had) a description of a creature like a serpent, dark brown in color (some said mottled), with white under the head and neck. The head of this creature was as large as a horse's, but shaped like a serpent's, and the animal was estimated as exceeding 50 feet in length. Colonel Perkins noticed an appearance in the front of the head like a single horn, but other observers thought this was the monster's tongue.

The evidence now obtained confirms the theory which was advanced in 1848, and has since been maintained by Gosse and others, that a race of marine animals exists, including probably several varieties, which is characterized by a serpentine neck, a head small compared with the body but large compared with the thickness of the neck, an air-breather, and deriving its propulsive power from paddles; in other words, a modern representative of the long-necked Plesiosaurians of the great secondary or Mesozoic era. Creatures of this class have been aptly compared to what would be formed by drawing a serpent through the body of a sea-turtle.

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