

additional proof in favour of the existence of
huge animals in the ocean, different from whales
and larger than they. In a letter from Samuel L.
Mitchell to P. B. Waterhouse M.D., New York
New York March 26th 1834.

Dear Sir
In my letter to Baron L'Ecalleir
of June 21st 1813, I exhibited a powerful body of testimony
-ony to establish the reality of enormous creatures in the
sea, different in their forms and habits from the ceta-
-ceous tribes, and frequently surpassing the largest of
them in bulk. Since the publication of that collection
of evidence, I have been enabled to make a further
statement.

Captain Paul, late commander of the Ship
Frances-Henrietta, a gentleman with whom I am
particularly acquainted, performed a voyage from
New York to Canton, in the year 1809. Being out-
-ward-bound during the month of September, he
steered from the Cape of Good Hope toward Fergue-
-ler's Land. In the latitude of forty one degrees
or thereabout, south, the men on the fore top cried
out, that there was a rock a-head, distant as he
conjectured, a league. A lump or mass was distin-
-guished in the direction the vessel was then going,
and perceived exactly the appearance of a Rock,
on approaching it, the captain was soon con-
-vinced that it was not a rock; but a being hovering

motion of its own, and unquestionably an extraordinary animal. He was satisfied that it made progress toward the ship. He ordered her to be kept somewhat away to avoid running foul; but at the same time sailed near enough to allow good observations to be made.

The animal continued its course without intimidation, and crossed the ship's wake just behind theudder. The part that was above water seemed to swim as large as ^{the} parlor in which we were then sitting; which was about twenty feet by fifteen. The guns had been loaded to shoot it; but on drawing near, the view was so forbidding that not a single piece was discharged. He, on the whole, concluded it most prudent to sail by without offering any disturbance or even hoisting out a boat. Its motion was steady, but slow and heavy.

Another person, Mr. Robert Cornwell, also well known to me, observed the phenomenon all the while. He has good eyes and quick perceptions. He concurred with the Captain in all the material points, and added that it would have been easy to run the ship on board of it, and the occurrence was avoided by keeping her away.

The appearance, as far as I could gather from these two reputable witnesses was such as to refer this monster, to the same class with

tope described in Vol. 16. p. 396-407 of the medical repository. It was longer than the ship; and her length on deck was one hundred and ten feet. A man could with the greatest ease have leaped from the quarter-deck upon its back, a little before it passed the ship's track.

The skin was totally destitute of hair; but was black and distinguished by spots, or rather seemed to be covered with barnacles. Mr. C. thought the part that projected above water, was forty feet in length. The back was round or gibbous. The elevation might be four feet above the level of the sea. Capt B. thought he saw a knob or head, on the part above the waves, he thought there was a wrinkled or folded structure, which he compared to an umbrella. These wrinkles or folds appeared to possess living action.

A sailor on board assured the crew that it was nothing but a Sea Elephant. Any inquirer, however, who knows any thing of the matter, will perceive at once that it cannot be a species of Phoca, and there was not a seaman on board, who presumed to think it a whale.
What then was it? I was

in all likelihood, a calappa Sepia, a creature
with whole ~~bones~~, it becomes naturalists to culti-
-vate a more particular acquaintance.

Before I close my letter, I beg your atten-
-tion to another fact. I remember to have read
among the articles of ship-news and marine in-
-telligence in our gazettes, within a few years,
that the putrefying carcass of a gigantic cuttle-
-fish floated the air to a great distance
around the spot where it lay, somewhat to
the east of the cape of good hope. It continued
to corrupt during a considerable part
of the austral summer; and afforded food to
numerable birds of prey. I neglected at the
time to cut out the paragraph with my self-
-saw; and I know not now where I should turn to
find it. But my recollection is strong as to the lead-
-ing particulars.

I remain truly and with sincere
-steers, yours
Samuel Mitchell

Dr. W. Waterhouse,

New York, June 16. 1844

My dear sir

I have not replied to your very friendly letter of March 28th, and I think it high time to do something by way of reply.

With our estimable friend John Fisher's gill water house I continue to hold very friendly intercourse. By a late letter from him I learn with pleasure that his time is occupied by Botany and the female votaries of Florida. Ladies, to the amount of a number between 70 and 150, have as I understand, favoured, the private Teachers with their attendance on this occasion. This is very pretty business, and if it should terminate in a practical essay upon the Monandria Monogynia, it will be charming indeed.

I am really rejoiced to learn the success in competing for premiums. The practice of a number of gentlemen in New York, continues to support the efficacy of gold in syphilis. It is really a fine remedy. -

For myself, now I am out of the Legislature I have abundance to do.

My predecessors have left the Ichthyology of this region almost untouched. To me has devolved the task of describing & classifying the numerous fishes of our waters. I began the work late last fall; and before Christmas, I had about 70 species fairly in my catalogue. I caused a very few copies to be printed at my own

expense. Since that time I have found about 40 more: so that our fishes, as they now lie before me, amount to nearly 110 species. and there are yet many more, that have not come to hand. I am going on, with all the skill and diligence I possess to complete this undertaking in a handsome manner. I find there is no need of fitting out a ship to Tongataboo, or Shitzyben for discoveries in zoology. We have an abundance of them at home. I presume I have already discovered more than fifty species of fish unknown to European naturalists.

Once a day I visit our grand hospital, as the attending physician. I just now parted with Du Ruytel, of Massachussetts, who being on his way home-ward from Pennsylvania, did me the favour of visiting the wards with me, and of assisting my mode of practising.

Daily also I meet my Class of Natural history in the superb Hall of our new College in Barclay Street. I have already concluded my Geology in 24 Lectures: and I have ~~preached~~ ^{preached} beyond the 20th in my Botany. The Zoology will be the last division of my academic work. at my close this day I adjourned to Elgin Garden and shall meet my auditors there tomorrow afternoon. —

The hopeful experiment of construc-

being a Battery or Frigate to be propelled
by steam occupies a portion of my time,
being one of the agency in behalf of the Na-
vy Department to superintend the con-
struction. I think it a noble project,
and I determined that every thing
shall be done that art can perform, for
its accomplishment. If it fails, it shall
be from physical impossibility, and not
from the insufficiency of means.

After twelve years of absence
I have had the luxury of a winter in
New York. Great indeed are the enjoy-
ments of a man who can partici-
pate the social advantages of this place.

Mr. De Witt joins me in respects
to yourself and Mr. Waterhouse. I would
write you many more things, but I
must not forget the character of a let-
ter-writer, by penning a dissertation.
So farewell & be happy.

Am. De Witt

Benj. Waterhouse Esq

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June 10th 1814

to Benj - Waterhouse

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