

distinction, commonly drawn between men and the higher monkeys, is an error of high civilization and comparatively recent. Less civilized races make no such distinction. To the Dyack, the great ape of Borneo is simply the Man of the Woods, "Orang Utan."

The belief in various mythical animals in England is still very strong. We are probably not far in advance of the Chinese in this matter. So strong is the belief, that several of the animals in question could not be mentioned here without prejudice. The Sea Serpent, however, is always open to criticism. This wonderful animal has hardly ever been seen alike by any two sets of observers. It is nearly always easy to a naturalist to understand the stories told. Sometimes it is a pair of whales that is seen; sometimes, as when the animal was seen off the Scotch coast, and figured in the *Illustrated London News*, a long mass of floating seaweed deceives the distant observer; sometimes the Serpent has large eyes and a crest behind the head, then it is a Ribbon Fish\* (*Gymnetrus*).

I myself am one of the few professed naturalists who have seen the Serpent. It was on a voyage to Rotterdam from the Thames. An old gentleman suddenly started up, shouting, "There's the Sea Serpent!" gesticulating with his umbrella. All the passengers crowded to the ship's side and gazed with astonishment at a black line, undulating with astonishing rapidity along the water at some distance. It was a flock of Cormorants, which was flying in line behind the waves, and which was viewed in the intervals between them with a sort of thaumoscopic effect.

The extremely untrustworthy nature of the descriptions sent home is a constant feature in the natural history of the Sea Serpent. Not long ago he was seen near Singapore (evidently a very large Cuttle-fish on this occasion). He was described as with large eyes, spotted with brown, and *without arms or legs*, but with a *very long tail*, and was yet said to be like a frog.

Ordinary sailors know nothing about whales or fish, and easily imagine they see wonders. Often, of course, the Sea Serpent stories are entirely without foundation in fact, and sometimes apparently ships from which they emanate are laden with rum.

Amongst the rough figures in the Shan Hoi Sing, the small book, from which the illustrations already given are taken, is one of a rat-like animal and a bird which lives in the same

\* As first, I believe, pointed out by Mr. J. M. Jones, F.L.S., in "An Account of a Ribbon Fish, 16 ft. 7 ins. in length, obtained at Bermuda." *Proc. Zool. Soc.* 1860, p. 187.