

very slowly, and with difficulty ; their articulation with the thighs is very strong. His knee is situated like that of a man, and his feet as low ; but his foot has no strength nor elastic power, and the knee is hard, without suppleness ; yet whilst the elephant is in his youth and vigour, he bends it to lay down, to let himself be loaded, or to help his leaders to mount him ; but when he is old or infirm, this motion becomes so difficult that he sleeps standing ; and, if he is compelled to lay down, the use of engines are necessary to raise him. His tusks, which become of an enormous weight when he grows old, not being seated in a vertical position, as the horns of other animals, form two long levers, and being in an almost horizontal direction, fatigue his head prodigiously, and draw it downwards, so that the animal is sometimes obliged to make holes in the wall of his lodge to support them, and ease himself of their weight. He has the disadvantage of having the organ of smelling far distant from that of tasting ; and likewise the inconvenience of not being able to seize any thing on the ground with his mouth, because his neck is too short to let his head reach the earth ; he is forced, therefore, to take his food, and even his drink with his nose ; and to carry it not only to the entrance of his mouth,