

plains of South America, on the south bank of the river Saladillo, which present a sea of waving grass for 900 miles, are principally composed of alluvial loam and sand, containing fresh-water with marine shells, and were once, like Lewes Levels, a gulf, or arm of the sea. In these alluvial deposits, enormous bones have been frequently discovered. Towards the close of the last century, an almost entire skeleton of a gigantic animal was dug up, at the depth of 100 feet, in a bed of clay, on the banks of the river Luxor, about four leagues W.S.W. of Buenos Ayres. This skeleton was sent, in 1789, to the museum at Madrid, where it now remains. It is described and figured by Cuvier, under the name of the *megatherium*. In 1832, Sir Woodbine Parish, with considerable labour and expense, collected many parts of the skeleton of a similar creature from the Salado; and actually diverted for a time the river from its course, that he might disinter these precious relics, which he has since deposited in the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. But, before I enter upon a description of these fossils, it will be requisite to notice the remains of an animal of analogous structure, which has been discovered in the saltpetre caves of Virginia and Kentucky, and which, from the size of the unguical or claw-bones, has been named the *megalonyx*.

24. THE MEGALONYX.*—I have placed upon the

* *Mega*, great; *onyx*, claw. See a "Description of the Fossil Bones of the Megalonyx," in Dr. Harlan's Medical and Physical Researches.