

specimen of the *bradypus* (slow-footed) *tridactylus*, (three-toed) from South America, and which is also called the *ai*, from its peculiar cry. The arms are double the length of the legs, and, from the construction of the limbs, the animal, when it walks, or rather crawls on the ground, is obliged to drag itself along on its elbows. But these creatures are destined to inhabit trees; their proper element is on the branches, and they can pass from bough to bough, and from tree to tree, with a rapidity which soon enables them to lose themselves in the depths of the forests. They live on the leaves and the young shoots, and unless disturbed, never quit a tree till they have stripped off every leaf. To avoid the labour of a descent, they drop to the ground, previously coiling themselves into a round ball, in which state, while attached to the branch, they may be taken alive. Thus the habits and economy of the sloth point out the necessity for a peculiarity of structure in its nails. The monkey leaps and swings himself from tree to tree, and catches at will the branches or the trunk; but the sloths do not grasp; their claws are mere hooks to hang by, and their great strength is in their arms. They never unfix one set of hooks until they have caught a secure hold with the other, thus hanging by their arms and legs, while their bodies are pendant; and they sleep in the same position. In the bones of the arm of the *megalonix*, we find a close analogy with those of the sloths. The humerus, or arm-