

ing in the woods. The cotton trees which I saw in Jamaica had their vast horizontal branches covered with them, and presented the remarkable aspect of a rich and variegated nursery in the skies. But the sloth turns these plants to practical advantage, and avails itself of their natural cordage and network, which unite the branches, to prosecute its sylvan course with the greater facility.

Some remarkable peculiarities of the skeleton of the sloth are found in the Megatherium, but with such modifications in the shortening and lengthening of the legs, and the addition of a powerful tail, as to show very considerable difference of habits, along with essential and important resemblance. Its length was about nineteen feet, its breadth across the loins nearly six feet, its height not exceeding nine feet. The trunk of its enormous body was terminated by a pelvis, and hind extremities nearly three times as large as those of the most gigantic elephant. Its food consisted of the roots or of the softer portions of trees; and it was so formed that it might rest its hideous weight securely on the hinder legs and tail, while its fore legs were freely and power-