

fully exerted in uprooting trees, or in wrenching off their branches and stripping them of their edible parts. The posterior portion of the skeleton, comprising the lumbar vertebræ, the bones of the pelvis, the tail, and the hinder extremities, exhibit a succession of contrivances suited to bear up against extraordinary bulk and ponderousness.*

* 'The first thing,' says Professor Ansted, 'to be noticed with reference to this part, is the wide expanse of bone stretching out from each side of the vertebral column to a distance of five feet, and scarcely leaving any interval in the hollow of the back. Powerful bones are seen placed at right angles to the spine and vertically over the hind legs, and these form a solid mass well fitted to withstand any amount of pressure, and enabling the hind legs to support without injury almost any effort that could be made by the animal when resting, as if on a tripod, upon its hind legs and tail. This great width also indicates a large size of the abdominal cavity, adapted to the habits of the animal as a vegetable feeder, but at the same time rendering it ponderous and unwieldy.

'Articulated to each of the broad plates of bone stretching out thus from the back, we find legs of corresponding magnitude and strength. The thigh-bone is not more than twenty-eight inches long, but its circumference at the smallest part is equal to its length, while the circumference of the thigh-bone of an elephant is not more than twelve inches. Although, however, the thigh-bone is short, it is set vertically, and not obliquely as in most animals, and its full length is thus taken advantage of, but the rate of pro-