

peculiar to the quadruped, is preserved, while a power of launching into the air is also given. We have already taken notice of the structure of the bat as adapted to flight; but there are other animals which enjoy this function though in a lesser degree. For example, the flying squirrel (*Petromys Volucella*), being chased to the end of the bough, spreads out its mantle, which reaches along both its sides from the anterior to the posterior extremity, and drops in the air; and it is met during its descent with such a resistance from its extended skin and its bushy tail, that it can direct its flight obliquely downwards, and even turn in the air. But to this end, there is no necessity for any adaptation of the anterior extremity. Among reptiles, there is a provision of the same kind in the *Draco fimbriatus*; which is capable, after creeping to a height, of dropping safely to the ground, under the protection of a sort of parachute, formed by its extended skin. This is not an inapt illustration, for although the phalanges of the fingers are not here used to extend the web, the ribs, which are unnecessary for breathing, are prolonged in a remarkable manner, and upon them, like the whale-bone of an umbrella, the skin is expanded.

But this brings us to a very curious subject,—the condition of some of those Saurian reptiles, the remains of which are found only in a fossil