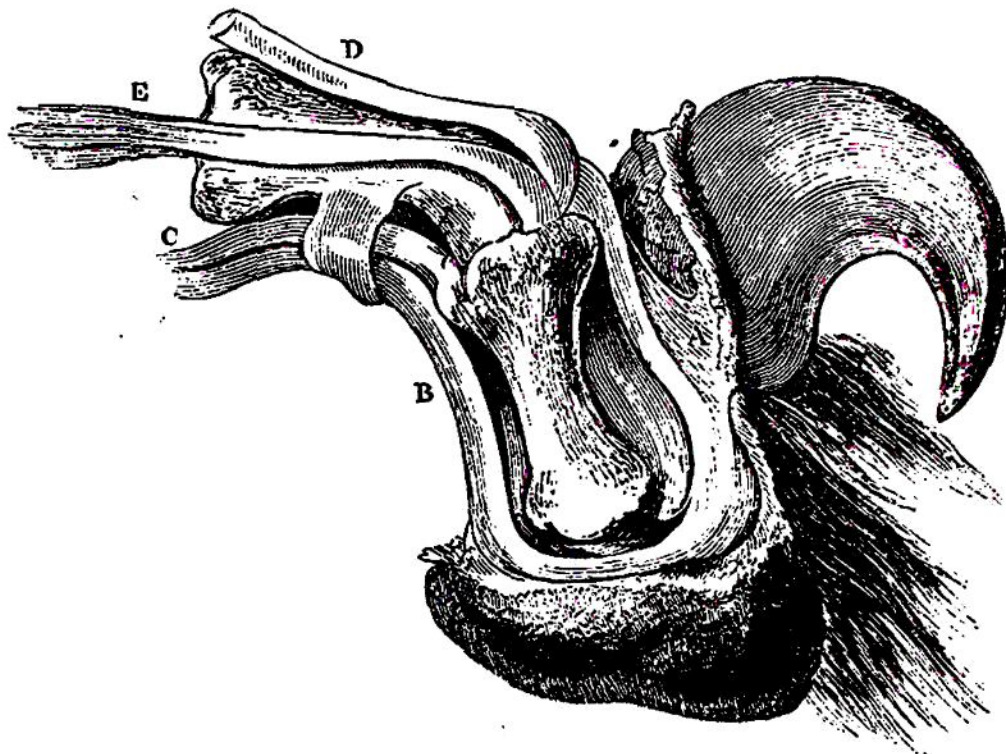


ligament (A) draws it back and raises the sharp extremity of the claw upwards. The nearer extremity of the furthest bone presses the ground, in the ordinary running of the animal,\* whilst



the claw is thus retracted into a sheath. But when the tiger makes his spring and strikes, the claws are uncased by the action of the flexor tendons; and they are so sharp and strong in

\* The pads in the bottom of the lion's foot cover these bones; or rather, we would say, protect them; they are soft cushions, which add to the elasticity of the foot, and must, in some degree, defend the animal in alighting from its bound. I could not comprehend how the powerful flexor muscles did not unsheath the claws when the lion made its spring, and how they produced this effect when there was an excitement to seize and hold the prey—I made this dissection to detect the cause. The last bone of the toe is placed, in relation to the penultimate, in so peculiar a manner, being drawn back by the elastic ligament (A) beyond