

parallelism than in any of the other mammalia; and the fields of vision of both eyes coincide nearly in their whole extent. This is probably a circumstance of considerable importance with regard to our acquisition of correct perceptions by this sense.

In the magnitude of the organ compared with that of the body, we may occasionally observe some relation to the character of the animal and the nature of its pursuits. Herbivorous animals, and especially those whose bulk is great, as the *Elephant*, the *Rhinoceros*, and the *Hippopotamus*, have comparatively small eyes; for that of the elephant does not exceed two inches in diameter. The eye of the *Whale* is not much more than the 200th part of the length of the body. In the purely carnivorous tribes, which are actively engaged in the chase of living prey, the organ of vision is large, and occupies a considerable portion of the head; the orbit is much developed, and encroaches on the bones of the face; while, at the same time, the bony partition separating the globe of the eye from the temporal muscle is supplied by ligament alone: so that when that muscle is in strong action, the eye is pressed outwards, giving a peculiar ferocity of expression to the countenance.

While nature has thus bestowed great acuteness of sight on pursuing animals, she has, on the other hand, been no less careful to arm those which are the objects of pursuit, with powers of vision, enabling them to perceive their enemies from afar, and avoid the impending danger. Thus, large eyes are bestowed on the *Rodentia* and the *Ruminantia*. Those tribes which pursue their prey by night, or in the dusk of the evening, as for example the *Lemur* and the *Cat*, are furnished with large eyes. Bats, however, form an exception to this rule, their eyes being comparatively small; but a compensation has been afforded them in the superior acuteness of their other senses. In many quadrupeds a portion of the choroid coat is highly glistening, and reflects a great quantity of coloured light: the object of this structure, which is termed the *Tapetum*, is not very apparent.