

I shall not here enter on the unsettled questions as to the precise age of the deposits in which the Megatherium is found, or the causes by which it has been extirpated ; my object is to show that the apparent incongruities of all its parts, are in reality systems of wise and well contrived adaptation to a peculiar mode of life. I proceed therefore to consider, in the order in which they are described by Cuvier, the most important organs of the Megatherium, beginning with the head, and from thence advancing to the trunk and extremities.

Head.

The bones of the head (Pl. 5, Fig. 1. a.) most nearly resemble those of a Sloth. The long and broad bone, (b,) descending the cheek from the zygomatic arch, connects it more nearly with the Ai than with any other animal : this extraordinary bone must have been auxiliary to the power of muscles, acting with more than usual advantage, in giving motion to the lower jaw (d).

The anterior part of the muzzle (c) is so strong and substantial, and so perforated with holes for the passage of nerves and vessels, that we may be sure it supported some organ of considerable size : a long trunk was needless to an animal possessing so long a neck ; the organ was probably a snout, something like that of