

Feet and legs thus heavily constructed, must have been very inefficient organs of rapid locomotion, and may consequently seem imperfect, if considered in relation to the ordinary functions of other quadrupeds; but, viewed as instruments adapted for supporting an almost stationary creature, of unusual weight, they claim our admiration equally with every other piece of animal mechanism, when its end and uses are understood. The perfection of any instrument can only be appreciated by looking to the work it is intended to perform. The hammer and anvil of an anchormith, though massive, are neither clumsy nor imperfect; but bear the same proportionate relation to the work in which they are employed, as the light and fine tools of the watchmaker bear to the more delicate wheels of his chronometer.

### *Bony Armour.*

Another remarkable character of the Megatherium, in which it approaches most nearly to the Armadillo, and Chlamyphorus, consists, in its hide having probably been covered with a bony coat of armour; varying from three-fourths of an inch, to an inch and half in thickness, and

rially in form and proportions, from the three more elongated and flatter claw-bones of the fore-foot, the oblique form of which is peculiarly adapted for digging.