

It remains to consider, of what use this cuirass could have been to the gigantic animal on which it probably was placed. As the locomotive organs of the Megatherium indicate very slow power of progression, the weight of a cuirass would have afforded little impediment to such tardy movements; its use was probably defensive, not only against the tusks and claws of beasts of prey, but also, against the myriads of insects, that usually swarm in such climates as those wherein its bones are found; and to which an animal that obtained its food by digging beneath a broiling sun, would be in a peculiar

refers without doubt to the Megatherium; other portions of it, and also many bones from the same district, he assigns to other animals. A similar admixture of bones and armour, derived from more than one species of animal, bearing a bony cuirass, is found in the collection made at several and distant points of the country above Buenos Ayres, by Mr. Parish. Although no armour was found with the fragments of the large skeleton, in the bed of the Salado, the rough broad flattened surface of a part of the crest of the ileum of this skeleton, (see Pl. 5, Fig. 2. r, s,) and the broad condition of the summit of the spinous processes of many vertebræ, and also of the superior convex portion of certain ribs on which the armour would rest, afford evidence of pressure, similar to that we find on the analogous parts of the skeleton of the Armadillo, from which we might have inferred that the Megatherium also was covered with heavy armour, even had no such armour been discovered near bones of this animal in other parts of the same level district of Paraguay. In all these flattened bones the effects of pressure are confined to those parts of the skeleton, on which the armour would rest, and are such as occur in a remarkable degree in the Armadillo.