

degree exposed. We may also conjecture it to have had a further use in the protection afforded by it to the back, and upper parts of the body; not only against the sun and rain, but against the accumulations of sand and dust, that might otherwise have produced irritation and disease.\*

### *Conclusion.*

We have now examined in detail the skeleton of an extinct quadruped of enormous magnitude; every bone of which presents peculiarities, that at first sight appear imperfectly contrived, but which become intelligible when viewed in their

\* To animals that dig only occasionally, like Badgers, Foxes, and Rabbits, to form a habitation beneath the ground, but seek their food upon the surface, a defence of this kind would not only have been unnecessary but inconvenient.

The Armadillo and Chlamyphorus are the only known animals that have a compact coat of plated armour, like that of the Megatherium. As this peculiar covering is confined to these quadrupeds, we can hardly imagine its use to be solely for protection against other beasts and insects; but as the Armadillo obtains its food by digging in the same dry and sandy plains, which were once inhabited by the Megatherium, and the Chlamyphorus lives almost entirely in burrows beneath the surface of the same sandy regions; they both probably receive from their cuirass the same protection to the upper parts of their bodies from sand and dust, which we suppose to have been afforded by its cuirass to the Megatherium. The scales of the Chlamyphorus are of a dense substance like hard leather. The Pangolins are covered with a different kind of armour, composed of separate horny moveable scales.