

which consist of a single joint, usually less flexible and pointed, whence they are called *spiny rays*, and those which consist of numerous small articulations, generally branching at their extremity, which are called *jointed rays*, these jointed rays may be regarded as precursors of the phalanxes of fingers and toes in the hands and feet of the terrestrial vertebrated animals. The first pair of fins, which are seldom wanting, and answer to the *fore-legs* or arms of those animals, are called *pectoral*, and are usually placed on the side behind the gill-covers. The second pair, supposed to be analogous to the hind-leg, are called *ventral*, and are placed under the abdomen. Besides these, there is often a fin along the back, sometimes subdivided, named the *dorsal* fin; another under the tail, called the *anal*, and the tail itself terminates in a fin, one of the most powerful of all, which is named the *caudal*, and in some respects may also claim to be regarded as the analogue of the legs.

The, so-called, fins of Cetaceans, are not properly fins, but legs adapted to their element as marine animals, the anterior pair having all the bones proper to those of mammiferous animals, covered with a thick skin, and wearing the appearance of a fin. In the sea-cow there are rudiments of nails in their pectoral fins, and they use them, both for crawling on shore, and for carrying their young, on which account they are called *Manatins*,* of which *Lamantins*, their French name, is probably a corruption. The tail also of the Cetaceans, which is in the shape of the caudal fin of fishes, and somewhat forked, but placed horizontally, contains some bones, which appear like rudiments of those of legs, thus, for their better motion in an element they never leave, covered by their Creator with a tendinous skin, and enabling them by an up and down motion to sink to a pro-

* *Manatus Americanus*.