

Wisdom, Power, and Goodness. Well might our Saviour say, *Behold the fowls of the air ; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns ; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them.**

The legs of *Mammalians*, with respect to their extremity, may be considered as divided into those that have powers of prehension, more or less, and those that have only powers of locomotion. I shall begin with the latter.

1. These consist of Baron Cuvier's *seventh and eighth* Orders of the Class above mentioned; namely, the *Pachyderms*, or thick-skinned beasts, and the *Ruminants*, or those that chew the cud.

The great man, just named, considers the horse and ass, constituting the equine genus,† as forming a Family of the first of these Orders, to which he has given the ancient appellation of *Soliped*,‡ or whole-hoofed. He originally regarded the Solipeds as forming a separate Order, and, indeed, comparing them with the other Pachyderms, as the elephant, rhinoceros, hippopotamus, hog, &c., the horse genus seems scarcely to belong to the same Order. Illiger, who altered the name, but without sufficient reason, to *Solidungula*, considers them as distinct.

Though the speed of the deer, except in a single instance, on account of their usually slight form and slender limbs, has not been applied by man to his purposes, and to add to the velocity of his progress, yet in the soliped race, especially in that noble quadruped the *horse*, we have an animal endowed with equal speed and greater strength, and by their undivided hoof, where speed as well as strength is required, calculated, with much more advantage and less injury, to traverse—both as beasts of burden and draught, and as adapted peculiarly for the conveyance of man himself—not only soft

* Matt. vi. 26.

† Equus.

‡ Gr. Μοῦξ. Aristot.