

built upon conjecture rather than observation, and are not credited by those who have had the best opportunities of observing their manners, as Hearne, Cartwright, and Dr. Richardson. The fabrics they are taught by their Creator to erect, and impelled by the instinct he has implanted in them, are sufficiently wonderful, without having recourse to fiction to exaggerate it. Their tails, probably, are useful to them in the water as natatory organs.

There is a very singular animal discovered by M. Sonnerat, in Madagascar, called the *Aye-Aye*,* which seems, in some degree, to approach the Quadrumanes. The fore-feet have five excessively long fingers, and, what is singular, the middle one is much slenderer than the rest. In the hind feet there is a thumb opposed to the other fingers, by which structure it is enabled to take firmer hold of the branches of trees. It is said to use the slender finger of its hand for the same purpose that the wood-pecker uses its barbed tongue, to extract the grubs from the trees.

The squirrels, which form the first genus in this interesting Order, are known to use their fore-legs for prehension, which indeed is the case with the majority of animals included in it. They are also, at least a large proportion, remarkable for sitting, when at rest, upon their haunches, and also for their ready use of their fore-legs.

Having before noticed the most remarkable animal in Cuvier's *fourth* Order, the *Marsupians*, which suckle their young in a pouch, I shall only mention one other animal belonging to it, the *Koala*,† a New Holland quadruped, in some respects resembling the bear; like the chameleon, it has the five toes or fingers of the fore-foot divided into two groups, the thumb and fore-finger forming one, and the three remaining fingers the other; the object of this structure is

* *Cheiromys*.

† *Lipurus*.