

evidently to enable it to take firm hold of the branches of the trees on which it passes part of its life; this is of the more importance to it, as it carries its young upon its back. It sometimes, probably in the night, retires to burrows which it excavates at the foot of the trees.

We have now arrived at the foot of Baron Cuvier's *third* Order, containing the *predaceous* Mammalians, which, though a very comprehensive group, will not detain us long, as the first and last family, the *Bats* and *Seals*, have been noticed in another place.\* The rest of the Order consists of the insectivorous and carnivorous Mammalians; the latter is further sub-divided into two tribes, which are denominated the *Plantigrades* and the *Digitigrades*.

Those last mentioned usually walk more upon their toes, and consist of the feline, canine, and several other tribes, all swift in their locomotions, and making use of their paws or fore-foot, either for scratching and burrowing, or to seize their prey, and they have all, I believe, five toes.

The *Plantigrades* are so called because they walk, like man, upon the whole foot, and consist of the bear,† the glutton,‡ and similar animals. This structure enables the former to rear itself on its hind feet, and walk erect; and their fore-foot will grasp a staff like a hand; it is armed with long claws, with which they scratch up roots which form part of their subsistence, excavate burrows, climb the trees, and seize their prey.

These armed paws are fearful weapons, both in the lion and the bear, to which few would like to be exposed; but an heroic youth, beloved of God and man, regarded them not, when, as a faithful shepherd, he rescued a lamb of his father's flock from their grasp and voracity.

The two most remarkable animals in the *insectivorous*

\* See above, p. 000, 156.

† Ursus.

‡ Gulo.