

tribe of predaceous Mammalians are the mole,* and the harmless, though persecuted, hedgehog;† but they are both too well known, the former for its piquants, and the latter for its hand turned outwards and moved by an enormous apparatus of muscles, to enable it to excavate its subterranean habitation.

We are now arrived, in our progress upwards, at Cuvier's *second* Order of Mammalians, which he names *Quadrumane*, or four-handed, and which consists of apes,‡ baboons,§ and monkeys,|| whose hind as well as fore-foot is usually furnished with a thumb opposite to the fingers, so that they can use all their feet for prehension: the object of Providence by this structure is to enable these animals to move about amongst the branches of the trees, which are their usual habitations, and to fix themselves securely upon them, so that they can use their hands to gather fruit or any other purpose. Thus also they can perambulate the trees with as much ease and safety as we do our houses; and run up and down the branches with as much celerity as we do our staircases; but they cannot make equal progress on the earth, or a plane surface, whether they go on four feet or two.

Even man himself, though he ordinarily cannot use his toes for prehension, yet is sometimes placed in such circumstances as to acquire the power of doing so. I remember, when a boy, going to see a girl who was born without arms, and was exhibited by her parents to the public. She could use her toes as fingers; could hold scissors, cut out watch-papers, sew, and even write. An account was given in the *St. James's Chronicle*, not long ago, of a youth similarly circumstanced, who being cruelly turned out by his father,

* Talpa.

† Erinaceus.

‡ Simia, &c.

§ Cynocephalus, &c.

|| Lemur, &c..