

utility to man, and without which he could scarcely exist, at least not in comfort ; and others again that attack him and his property ; and though the fear of him, in some degree, still remains upon them, also often excite that passion in his breast. But he of all animals is the only one that, by the exercise of his reasoning powers and faculties, can arm himself with factitious weapons enabling him to cope with the superior strength, the fierceness, claws, and teeth of the tiger or the lion, and to lay them dead at his feet when in the very act of springing upon him.

The animals of this Class, that are *terrestrial*, are all *quadrupeds*,\* and are mostly covered with fur or hair, longer or shorter, though in some, these hairs become quills, as in the porcupine, or spines, as in the hedgehog ; others, like the serpents and lizards, are protected by scales, as the *Manis* ; and some are encased in a hard coat of armour, often consisting of pieces so united as to form a kind of mosaic, as the armadillo, the *Chlamyphorus*,† and probably the *Megatherium*.

In the *aquatic* Mammalians the legs are, more or less, converted into *fins*, or means of natation.‡ The whole body constituting the Class, though sometimes varying in the manner, are all distinguished by *giving suck* to their young, on which account they were denominated by the Swedish naturalist, *Mammalians*.§

The situation and number of the, usually protuberant, organs that yield the milk, vary in different tribes and genera. The Creator has distributed them according to the circumstances of each kind. Physiologists divide them into *pectoral*, or those on the *chest* ; *abdominal*, or those on the

\* Τετραποδα της γης.

† Frontispiece to Vol. i.

‡ See above, p. 94, 107.

§ Cuvier calls them Mammifera, but there seems no reason for altering the original term.