

was attempted by Waterhouse Hawkins, and cuts of this are now found in most of the text-books.

This was one of the most anomalous creatures of the strange past. It was one of the last of the great "comprehensive types" which appeared in the progress of the history of life, and of which you will hear much, as we trace this history backward. It was studied by the great Cuvier, among many others, and he first revealed its true affinities. Some regarded it as tree-inhabiting; some thought it subterranean; Owen decided that it must have lived upon the ground. As represented by Hawkins, it stands semi-erect, resting on its massive hinder-extremities, with auxiliary support from a vast pillar-like tail, with anterior extremities clasping the trunk of a tree and relatively diminutive head and tapir-like snout turned upward toward the foliage which probably served as its food.

The length of the skull is thirty-one inches; its breadth, eighteen. The brain-box is very small for the bulk of the animal. The molar teeth have hollow fangs for continuous growth, as in the sloth and many modern rodents. The spinal column is $15\frac{1}{2}$ feet long. The circumference of the skeleton at the eighth rib is ten feet. The scapula is a vast expanse of bone two and a half feet long. The distal (farther) end of the humerus is 13 inches wide, while that of the elephant is only one-fourth as great. The pelvis is a mountain of bone. It is far more massive than that of the elephant or any known animal, living or extinct. Its extreme breadth is upward of five feet—that of the Asiatic elephant being sixteen inches less. The socket for the head of the femur presents a surface of 44 square inches, which is 200 times the same surface in the pigmy shrew-mouse. The thigh bone, in the Mastodon and Elephant, appears weak and slender compared with that of the *Megatherium*. It is two feet two inches in circumference at the largest part. The hind legs look more like columns for the support of a bridge than like organs for locomotion. The circumference of the tail at its largest part was six feet.

We have to imagine this gigantic framework clothed with