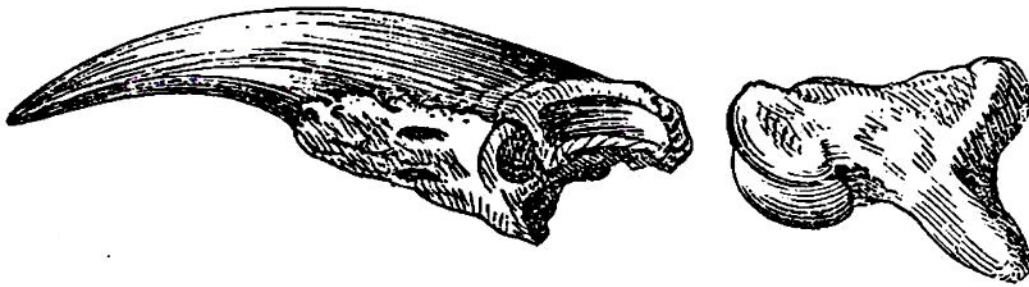


the Bengal tiger, and his arm is so powerful, that they have been known to fracture a man's skull by a touch, in the act of leaping over him.

I have alluded to the observations of President Jefferson on the *Megalonix*. Having found a bone, which, by its articulating surface and general form, he recognised to be one of the bones of the phalanx of an animal of great size, he thought he could discover that it had carried a claw; and from this circumstance, he naturally enough concluded (according to the adage—*ex ungue leonem*) that it must have belonged to a carnivorous animal. He next set about cal-



culating the length of this claw, and estimating

the centre of motion of the joint, that the flexor tendon (B) acting upon it, when the animal uses his foot in mere progression, forces the nearer end, and the cushion of the toe to the ground. But when the lion strikes his prey to seize it, a more general excitement takes place in the muscles called *interossei*, and the extensors, D, E; the relative position of the two last bones is altered; the nearer end of the last bone is withdrawn from beyond the centre of motion of the joint, so that the action of the flexor tendon can now draw it forward—thus unsheathing and uncovering the claw, and preparing it to hold or to tear.