

above the ground. It is a common mistake, arising from the height of these joints, and the names they bear in ordinary language, to consider them as the knees of the animal. The slightest inspection of the skeleton will be sufficient to show that what is called the knee in the fore leg is properly the wrist; and in the hind leg, the part so misnamed is really the heel. Thus, the foot, especially in the posterior extremity, is of great length; a structure which is evidently intended to give greater velocity to the actions of the muscles, while it at the same time ensures the utmost steadiness and security of motion.

At the lower extremity of the cannon bone there are two articular surfaces, indicating the originally separate ends of its two component bones. They are for the articulation of the two following bones, which are also very long, and which correspond in situation to the first phalanges of the fingers and toes. These are followed by a second and third set of phalanges; the last of which terminate in hoofs. All ruminant quadrupeds have thus a double hoof; a character which is peculiar to this family.

Thus, then, has Nature moulded the organs of progressive motion in this remarkable tribe of animals to accommodate them to the peculiar conditions of their existence, while she has still preserved their relations to the primitive type of the class to which they belong. Thus has she bestowed upon them the slender and elegant forms, so pleasing to the eye, which characterize the fleetest racer, and has provided for the agile, yet firm and secure movements which they are to exercise in various ways in eluding the observation, and escaping from the pursuit of their stronger and more sagacious foes. This purpose they effect, at one time by rapid flight across extensive tracts of country; at another, by retirement into unfrequented forests, or mountains of difficult access, crossing their rugged surfaces in all directions, clambering their precipitous acclivities, and fearlessly bounding over intervening abysses, from point to point, till the place of safety is attained on some rocky eminence. From this