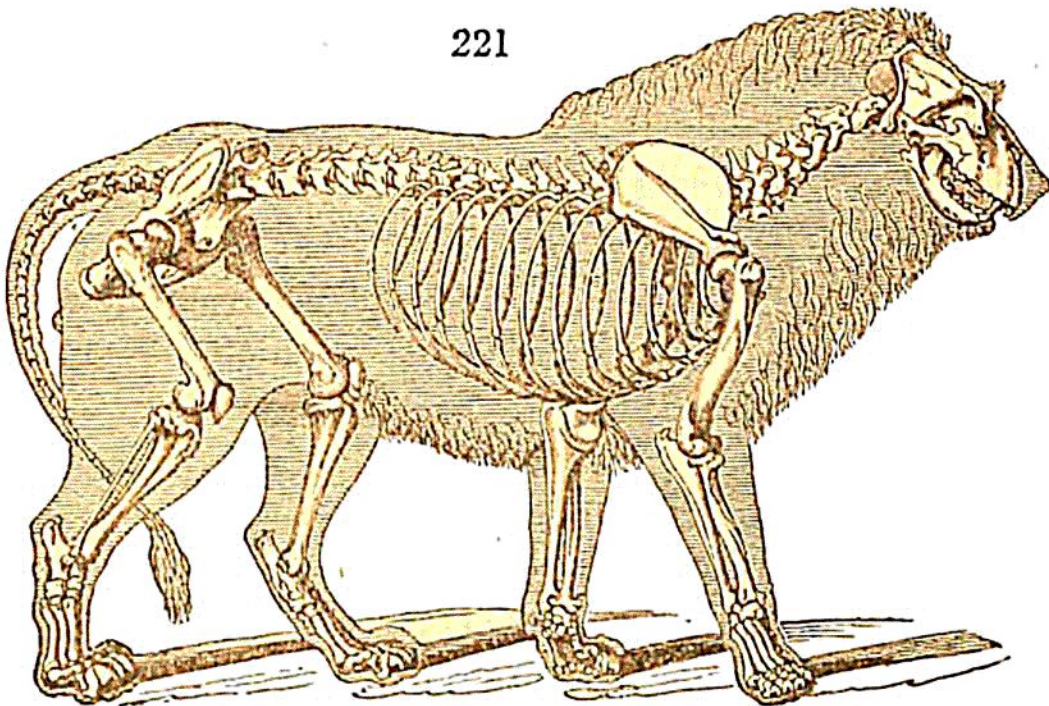


formidable weapons of offence and destruction. Great mechanical power was required for raising the head, not only on account of the force to be exerted in tearing flesh, but also that these animals might be enabled to carry away their prey in their mouths. Hence we find that in the Lion, of which the skeleton is represented in its relations to the outline of the body, in Fig. 221, the first vertebra of the neck, or atlas, has very widely expanded transverse processes, while the second vertebra has a largely developed spinous process, for supplying levers for the muscles which have to perform these and other actions in which the head is concerned.

The whole of the remaining part of the skeleton of these animals is constructed with reference to their predatory nature. The sudden springs with which they pounce upon their prey must impart to the whole osseous frame the most violent concussion. The first stroke with which they attempt the destruction of their victims is given with the fore leg; so that, had the limb been rigidly connected with the sternum, by means of an entire clavicle, its motions would have

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been too limited, and danger of fracture would have been incurred. The scapula is broad, and the humerus of great