

length, compared with the same bones in ruminants; and the latter has, besides, a large surface for its articulation with the former of these bones, thus allowing of a great range of motion: the radius and ulna are perfectly distinct, and play extensively on each other.

The fore feet rest on the ground by means of the second of the three joints of which each toe is composed. The last phalanges are raised at right angles to the former, for the purpose of supporting the claws in an erect position. It has been considered of such importance to preserve these formidable instruments constantly sharp, and in a condition fitted for immediate use, that an express contrivance has been resorted to for this purpose. It consists in a sheath, within which the claws, when not employed, are kept retracted, by means of an elastic ligament, which constantly tends to withdraw them within the sheath: and they are, at the same time, so connected with the tendons of the flexor muscles of the toes, that the moment these muscles are thrown into action, which is the case when the animal aims a stroke with its paw, the claws are instantly drawn out, and combine in inflicting the severest lacerations.\*

Connected with the superior strength of the hind extremities, we find the pelvis extending farther backwards, and more in a perpendicular line with the femur. This latter bone is longer and more slender than in the horse, but it is more compact in its form, and its processes are more strongly developed: the fibula is a separate bone from the tibia. The muscles, in general, are more divided into portions, and are thus capable of greater diversity of action, at the same time that they have greater power than those of herbivorous quadrupeds. The articular surfaces are of greater extent, and are lubricated with a more copious supply of synovia; their ligaments are more delicate and more numerous; and the

\* There exists, concealed in the tuft of hair, at the extremity of the lion's tail, a small conical and slightly curved claw, which is attached to the skin only, and not to the last caudal vertebra: its use is probably to increase the effect of blows given with the tail.