

branches, or sportively swinging by their extremities in the air. Both the feet and the hands are formed for this species of prehension; and many are farther provided with a strongly prehensile tail, which is an instrument admirably adapted to all these purposes. Hence, the attitude most natural to these animals is neither the horizontal one of quadrupeds, nor the erect posture of man, but an intermediate or semi-erect position.

This view of the living habits of the quadrumana will afford the key to most of the peculiarities of structure they present to our observation. The head, being no longer suspended at the end of a horizontal, or recurved neck, is, in the usual attitude of the animal, supported chiefly by the cervical vertebræ. The greater development of the brain, and, more especially, of its posterior lobes, creates a necessity for an extension of the occipital bone in that direction; a portion of the weight to be sustained by the atlas, is, accordingly, thrown behind the centre of motion, which is at its articulation with the latter bone; and this weight tends, therefore, to balance that of the anterior part of the head: hence, there is no need of the strong cervical ligament, which is so universally met with in quadrupeds, and, although this ligament exists in the monkey, it is very slender, and of no very great extent.

Great mobility has been conferred on the spine by the form of its articulations; and the caudal vertebræ are generally greatly multiplied to form a tail of considerable length, which, in the *Ateles*, or spider monkey of America, is moved by powerful muscles, and is an organ of great flexibility and strength. Monkeys possess a distinct clavicle, a lengthened humerus and femur, a radius and ulna moveable upon each other, and a hand nearly approaching to the human construction. But the thumb is less developed, and its muscles are much weaker than in man.

The bones of the pelvis, as well as those of the leg, are elongated, for the purpose of giving greater length to the muscles which are to move their several parts; by this means,