

restore them to their proper situations, after they have been disturbed by any violent impulse.

The wing of a bird does not, at first view, present much analogy with the fore extremity of a quadruped; but on a closer examination we find it to contain all the principal bones of the latter, though somewhat altered in shape, and still more changed in their functions. Yet still the same unity of plan, and perfect harmony of execution may be discerned in the mechanism of this refined instrument of a higher mode of progression.

The head of the humerus ( $\eta$ ) has a compressed form; and in order to obtain great extent of motion, it is made to play by a very small cylindrical surface upon the scapula; thus admitting of the complete descent of the wing, unobstructed by any opposing process, but at the same time limiting its motion to one plane. It is connected below, by broad attachments, to the radius and ulna, forming with them a hinge joint. These latter bones are separate, and of great length, but so firmly united together by ligament as scarcely to have any motion on one another. The carpus ( $\nu$ ) consists of two bones only, the one articulated with the radius, the other with the ulna. They move together as one piece; but, contrary to what takes place in quadrupeds, the movements are made from side to side, instead of their consisting of flexion and extension; this variation from the usual structure being for the purpose of folding down the joints of the wing, and bringing them close to the body. The metacarpus ( $m$ ) consists originally of two bones, which soon become united into one at the upper part. On the radial side it has a process, derived perhaps from a third metacarpal bone, which is ankylosed at a still earlier period of ossification; and to this process a small pointed bone is connected, corresponding to a rudimental thumb ( $\tau$ .) There are generally two fingers, of which the first exhibits traces of having been originally two bones: the inner finger consists of two or three long phalanges, and the outer one of a single phalanx: there is sometimes also a rudimental bone corresponding to