

similitude to man, but a little scrutiny elicits numerous and impassable contrasts.*

* Most people are so struck with the general resemblance of the external features between man and the Ourang-outang, that they become prepossessed with the notion, that the differences are few and unimportant, compared with the numerous characters they possess in common. Nothing, however, can be more mistaken than such an opinion, which at once vanishes before a detailed comparison of the corresponding organs of man and the ape. An examination of the structure of the foot alone will afford an illustration of discrepancies, such as we find pervading almost every other organ. In man the foot, framed for sustaining the whole weight of the body, is placed at right angles to the leg, and forms an arch, supported by the heel-bone, and the broad expansion formed by the scarcely flexible toes. The motion of the foot at the ankle is limited, being merely a hinge motion, and not at all rotary. On the contrary, the foot of the ourang-outang has the fingers long and flexible, and the great toe changed into a thumb; or, in other words, the foot is, in structure and function, a hand for grasping, and not a foot for biped progression. In accordance with this, the ankle-joint admits of great liberty of motion, admirably fitted for a prehensile organ, but forming a most imperfect foot. Hence the hinder extremity of man and the ape are the contradictories of each other. So much is this the case, and so incapable are the ape tribe of anything like easy walking when erect upon their hind feet, or rather hands, that the position is very painful to them. If we look at an ape making the attempt, we see that his long flexible fingers are an inconvenience; his thumb, or great toe, is of no service, and is laid across the foot; and the animal, instead of resting, as man does, on the sole of the foot, only rests on the outer edge of a half-closed hand; and, further, the great