



Fig. 153.—Skeletons of the *Palæotherium magnum* (a) and *minimum* (b) restored.

proboscis, and in the feet, the animal seems to have resembled the Tapir.

The geological place of the extinct *Palæotherium* seems to have been in the first great fresh-water formation of the Eocene period, where it is chiefly found with its allies, of which several species have been found and identified by Cuvier. Dr. Buckland is not singular in thinking that they lived and died on the margins of lakes and rivers, as the Rhinoceros and Tapir do now. He is also of opinion that some retired into the water to die, and that the dead carcasses of others may have been drifted into the deeper parts in seasons of flood.

The *Palæotherium* varied greatly in size, some species being as large as the Rhinoceros, while others ranged between the size of the Horse and that of a Hog or a Roe. The smaller *Palæotherium* resembled the Tapir. Less in size than a Goat, with slim and light legs, it must have been very common in the north of France, where it would

browse on the grass of the wild prairies. Another species, the *P. minimum*, scarcely exceeded the Hare in size, and it probably had all the lightness and agility of that animal. It lived among the bushy thickets of the environs of Paris, in Auvergne, and elsewhere.