

the size of the animal. He satisfied himself that in this bone, a relick of the ancient world, he had obtained a proof of the existence, during these old times, of a lion of the height of the largest ox, and an opponent fit to cope with the mastodon. But when this bone came under the scrutiny of Baron Cuvier, his perfect knowledge of anatomy enabled him to draw a different conclusion.

He first observed that there was a spine in the middle of the articulating surface of the last bone ; which in this respect was unlike the form of the same bone in the feline tribe. He found no provision in this specimen of an extinct animal for the lateral attachment of the bone ; which we have just shown to be necessary for its retraction. Then observing what segment of a circle this bone formed, he prolonged the line in the corresponding circumference, and showed that the claw belonging to it must have been of such great length, that it could never have been retracted to the effect of guarding an acute and sharp point. The point, therefore, could not have been raised vertically, as in the lion, so as to have permitted the animal to put the foot to the ground without blunting the instrument ! Pursuing such a comparison, he rejected the idea of the bone belonging to an animal of the feline tribe at all. His attention was directed