

been happily illustrated by the celebrated Cuvier: and the principle may be pursued in a manner interesting both to the Naturalist and Geologist.

We may feel in ourselves a projection of the spine between the shoulders which marks the process of the "*vertebra prominens*." When we stoop forward, as in reading a book which lies upon the table, we may feel a ligament extending from this process to the back of the head. It suspends the head and relieves the muscles. But as, for the most part, man carries his head balanced upon the extremity of the spine, or can vary its relation under fatigue, that suspensory ligament is not to be compared in strength with the corresponding part in quadrupeds; where from the horizontal position of the spine, the head always hangs: and there would be a great waste of muscular exertion were there not the interposition of this elastic ligament, and were it not of proportionate power.\* It is long and strong in the horse; and the admirable thing is the accurate adjustment of the elasticity of this ligament to the weight and position of the head. The head is balanced by it as on a steel-yard. With this circumstance in our mind, let us observe the peculiar form of the elephant.

1. We begin, again, as in treating of the boar,

\* See "On the Muscular and Elastic Forces," p. 278.