and extent of its bounds; for which it is admirably qualified by the prodigious power of its muscles, enabling it to spring forwards upon its victim with an impetus which nothing can resist.

The speed with which a quadruped is capable of advancing depends more on the disposition of the muscles and the extent of the articulations, and more especially on the power of the extensors of the hind extremities, than on the form of the body. Great length and muscularity in the hind legs are generally attended with considerable power of leaping. This is exemplified in the *Jerboa* and the *Kanguroo*, animals, which, from the disproportionate shortness of their fore legs, are totally incapacitated from walking; and for the same reason, they cannot run with any degree of swiftness. It is only in climbing up a steep acclivity that the jerboa is enabled to employ all its limbs: in a descent, on the contrary, it uses only its fore legs, the hinder being dragged after them. But, when pursued, these animals are capable, for a long continuance, of taking leaps of nine feet distance, and of repeating these leaps so quickly, that the Cossacks, though mounted on the swiftest horses, are unable to overtake them.

The *Kanguroo*, in almost all his movements, brings into action his powerful tail, which is furnished with very strong muscles, and may be considered as constituting a fifth limb. It is of great assistance to the animal in taking leaps, and during its repose, contributes, together with the hind feet, to support the weight of the body, as on a tripod, and to leave at liberty the fore legs, which may then be employed as arms.

The *Hare* and the *Rabbit* furnish other instances of an extraordinary length of the hinder legs depriving the animal of the power of walking, and obliging it to move forwards only by a succession of leaps. The hare may be said, indeed, to walk with its fore legs only, while it hops or gallops with the hinder: but this disadvantage is amply compensated by its amazing swiftness when running at full speed,