tion of the shortest joints in the middle of the toes of Lizards, is to give greater power of flexion for bending round, and laying fast hold on twigs and branches of trees of various dimensions, or on inequalities of the surface of the ground or rocks, in the act of climbing, or running.*

All these coincidences of number and proportion, can only have originated in a premeditated adaptation of each part to its peculiar office; they teach us to arrange an extinct animal under an existing family of reptiles; and when we find so many other peculiarities of this tribe in almost every bone of the skeleton of the Pterodactyle, with such modifications, and such only as were necessary to fit it for the purposes of flight, we perceive unity of design pervading every part, and adapting to motion in the air, organs which in other genera

we are considering, that it adds another approximation to the character of the living Lizards; we have seen that it also differs from the other Pterodactyles, in having the fifth, instead of the fourth finger elongated, to become the expansor of the wing.

It is however probable that the fifth toe had only three joints, for the same reasons that are assigned respecting the number of joints in the fifth finger. In the P. Longirostris, Cuvier considers the small bone, (Pl. 21, 5, 6,) to be a rudimentary form of the fifth toe.

* A similar numerical disposition prevails also in the toes of birds, attended by similar advantages.