

ambush on trees, and await patiently their prey, and that when a man passes they jump down on him, strangle him and devour him at once. Better still, they affirm that if any one throws himself on his knees before the gorilla and asks grace, he will raise him by the hand and allow him to depart, making him understand that this homage rendered to his strength has infinitely pleased him.

To sum up, this man of the woods, of unparalleled strength, has a distant resemblance to man. It is particularly in the length of the arm, and the size of the shoulder blade that the analogy of structure is observable; the inferior members, the legs, are shorter than in man; the heel projects more, and lastly, the big toe, entirely separated from the other toes, serves to the gorilla, to stand upright.

His ordinary height varies from five to five feet and a half, and the colour of his skin, which is covered with hair except on the face, is of the deepest black. The fur of the animal is of an iron grey. His eyes are black, with a sinister expression, set far apart and strongly imbedded in their orbits under an arched protuberating eyebrow; the neck so short, that one may say it scarcely exists; the mouth filled with formidable teeth; ears small and like those of a man; the nasal bone jutting out; the back arched, the shoulders very large, the hands square and the fingers terminating with black nails; the legs short and scarcely formed to sustain the weight of the animal, who generally goes on four feet, and who, if he goes upright, is obliged to advance in a see-sawing motion. When on all fours, he runs as fast as a horse can gallop. The gorilla does not live in society; when he has no longer need of his father and mother he leaves them.

They live in the deepest retreats of the forest, and when they sleep, it is leaning the back against the trunk of a tree.

When hunger forces them to leave their retreat, they advance to the glades, in search of bananas, sugar cane and ananas, which form their usual food, for these animals are frugiverous and their appetite is enormous; this accounts for the wandering habit of the animal, who leaves as soon as he has exhausted the canton in which he has stopped.

M. Du Chaillu, who has passed several years in Guinea, and who returned to Europe with several skins and skeletons, had also made various efforts to tame young gorillas, but they all died in captivity.

I will terminate this description of the gorilla by relating an anecdote of a gorilla hunt by this daring sportsman, taken from the magnificent work called "Wild sports of the world."

"The greatest difficulty in hunting the gorilla consists in the nearly absolute impossibility of penetrating the thicket that he has chosen for his