

for this sort of knowledge is yet too limited to hope for so brilliant a success.

Yet, the history of birds would soon attain this desirable perfection, if there were many observers so ardent and persevering in their researches as Levaillant. A celebrated traveller, and indefatigable ornithologist, great and numerous discoveries have become his honorable property and the domain of his glory, as well as the gratitude of naturalists; and under this denomination, I do not comprehend certain men, who, having studied nature only in their cabinets, and travelled only in their chamber, yet arrogate to themselves the right of distributing reputation; and who, from a marked conformity with certain beings that we have described among the quadrupeds, have an irresistible inclination to bite and tear. Levaillant, who passed a great part of his life in traversing unexplored and distant countries, and in accumulating the most interesting observations, found himself exposed, more than any other, to indecorous and insulting imputations and criticism; yet no one, perhaps, ever merited them less; and if they do not respect his labours and his brilliant reputation, they ought at least to have regard for the simple and unaffected manner in which  
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