

through with his talons. But his most ordinary food is apes, particularly that species which they call at Brazil *quaribus*, which he kills with his beak and talons, and which he carves and devours in an instant with a degree of skill and voracity that is astonishing. This predilection for that peculiar race of apes has occasioned him to be called by the natives, *eater of quaribus*.

Though possessing an extreme voracity, yet this bird can pass fifteen or twenty days without taking any nourishment. Its ordinary residence is upon high mountains: it places its nest on the loftiest trees: it employs in its construction the bones of animals, which it has devoured, and some dry branches which it fastens with slender twigs. "Some persons," says the author of the MS. "imagine that the female lays three eggs, and that it rejects two of them; but observation has proved that she lays only one, and that it covers this one with great care." The same thing has been said of the eagle, and it is probable that these fables have crossed the seas with prejudiced observers, who have applied to the eagle of America, the stories that have been fabricated respecting the European eagle. The female ouira ouassou lays, very probably,