

out and spread itself over the feathers, and this powder, as already observed, was of a brown colour. The large quills of the wings were also stripped of their feathers as if they had been used; but it is probable they would be renewed.

It is not easy to say why Nature has provided this bird with so large a quantity of powder; all that can be done is to conjecture that it has been given for the purpose of protection against the heavy rains that fall six months in the year in Abyssinia, for it is common to all the other winged inhabitants of this country. The pigeons of Lamalmon are not furnished with this powder, and hence it may be concluded that they are migratory: but the gypaete is indigenous, and is never seen in Lower Ethiopia.

This conjecture of Bruce, as to the use of the powder, cannot be admitted, for, if the gypaete and other birds of Abyssinia be so abundantly provided with it as a defence against the rains that fall in that country for six months in the year, why has not Nature given the same defence to the birds of Guiana, where it rains incessantly for