

countries of the globe, the number would be very considerable; above all, in those countries under the equator, where the fecund earth daily discloses living productions and animal prey. The regions of Africa present in fact various species of carnivorous birds. Among these wild and ferocious beings is found a singular sort of kite which is very common in the southern part of this country. Among the Caffres, and the Namaquois the parasitical kite has a more bold and decisive character than our kite: he attacks with more temerity; he pounces with more impetuosity on his prey; and when the smell of flesh or the sight of some weak animal attracts it, he rushes, and tears with ravenous voracity every thing which he touches. He becomes enraged in the pursuit of his victim; he disputes it courageously with other carnivorous creatures, more cowardly or more weak than himself; and retiring from his combats a conqueror, he darts towards the heavens, uttering loud and piercing cries in sign of triumph.

This continual rapacity which urges the animal incessantly to the pursuit of prey, is not however the consequence of deliberate courage which surmounts danger by intrepidity: it is a vehement appetite for flesh, a
thirst