

and there are no countries which furnish us with older and more abundant specimens than Egypt. It affords us not only the representation of animals, but their bodies themselves embalmed in the catacombs.

I have attentively examined the drawings of animals and birds engraved on the numerous columns brought from Egypt to Rome. All these figures have (taken as a whole, which must be the way in which artists consider them,) a perfect resemblance to those of the same species still existing.

Every one may examine the copies made by Kirker and Zoega; they have given drawings of them, easily recognised, although not precisely similar to the originals. We may easily distinguish the ibis, the vulture, the owl, the falcon, the Egyptian goose, the lapwing, the landrail, the aspic, the cerustes, the Egyptian hare with its long ears, and even the hippopotamus: and in these numerous monuments, engraved in the great work on Egypt, we sometimes have the rarest animals; the algazel, for instance, which was not seen in Europe till within these few years.(1)

My learned colleague, M. Geoffry Saint Hilaire, strongly impressed with the importance of this research, collected with great care, in the tombs and temples of Upper and Lower Egypt, all the mummies of animals which he could obtain. He brought both cats, ibises, birds of prey, dogs, monkeys, crocodiles, and an ox's head embalmed; and we cannot find any more difference between these and those of the present day, than between human mum-

(1) The first representation of it from nature, is in 'La Description de la Menagerie,' by my brother; it is accurately represented in the great work on Egypt: *Descr. de l'Egypte*, Ant. t. iv. pl. xlix.