

APPENDIX

TO THE

DISCOURSE ON THE REVOLUTIONS OF THE SURFACE OF THE GLOBE.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BIRD CALLED THE IBIS BY THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS.

EVERY one has heard of the Ibis, the bird to which the ancient Egyptians paid religious worship; which they brought up in the interior of their temples, which they allowed to stray unharmed through their cities, and whose murderer, even though involuntary, was punished by death;(1) which they embalmed with as much care as their own parents. To this bird was attributed a virgin purity; an inviolable attachment to their country, of which they were made the emblem, an attachment of such force that they would die with hunger if removed elsewhere; a bird which possessed sufficient instinct to know the increase and wane of the moon, and regulated accordingly the quantity of its daily nourishment, and the development of its young; which checked, at the very frontiers of Egypt, the serpents

(1) Herod, 1, 2.