

colour, and with its face covered with a red skin without plumage which does not go farther than its eyes.

Such is the ibis of Perrault,(1) the white ibis of Brisson,(2) the white ibis of Egypt of Buffon,(3) and the tantalus ibis of Linnæus, in his twelfth edition.

It was to this very bird, that M. Blumenbach, at the same time confessing its rarity at the present day, at least in Lower Egypt, asserted that the Egyptians paid divine honours;(4) and yet M. Blumenbach had an opportunity of examining the skeleton of a real mummy ibis, which he opened in London.(5) I was in the same error as these learned men whom I have just mentioned, until I had an opportunity of examining by myself some mummies of the ibis.

This pleasure was first procured for me by the late M. Fourcroy, to whom M. Grobert, colonel of artillery, returning from Egypt, had given two of these mummies, both taken from the pits of Saccara. On unfolding them carefully, we perceived that the bones of the embalmed bird were much

(1) Description of an ibis, and two storks. Acad. des Sciences of Paris, v. iii. pl. iii. p. 61, 4to. ed. 1754, pl. xiii. fig. 1. The beak is represented as truncated at the end, a fault of the engraver.

(2) *Numenius sordide albo rufescens, capite anteriore nudo rubro; lateribus rubro purpureo et carneo colore maculatis, remigibus majoribus nigris, rectricibus sordide albo rufescentibus, rostro in exortu dilute luteo, in extremitate aurantio, pedibus griseis.* Ibis candida Brisson Ornithologie, vol. v. p. 349.

(3) 'Planches Enluminées,' num. 389. Hist. des Oiseaux, vol. viii. in 4to. p. 14, pl. 1. The last figure is copied from Perrault, with the same fault.

(4) Handbuch der Naturgeschichte, p. 203, of the edit. 1799, but in the edition of 1807, he has restored the name of ibis to the bird to which it belongs.

(5) Philosophical Transactions, for 1794.