

heron for the ibis, gives as his principal reason, that the size of this bird, which is that of a crow, corresponds very well with the size of the mummies of the ibis.(1) How then could Linnæus give the name of ibis to a bird as large as a stork? How indeed could he consider this bird as the same with the *ardea ibis* of Hasselquist, which besides its smallness, had a straight beak? And how could this latter error of synonymy have been perpetuated in the *Systema Naturæ*, down to the present time?

A short time after the examination made with M. Fourcroy, M. Olivier had the complaisance to show us some bones which he had brought from two mummies of the ibis, and to open two others with us. The bones there found resembled those of the mummies of colonel Grobert, only one of the four was smaller, but it was easy to judge by the epiphyses, that it had belonged to a young individual.

The only drawing of the beak of an embalmed ibis, which does not entirely agree with those which we examined, was that of Edwards (plate cv.); it is a ninth larger, and yet we do not question its accuracy; for M. Olivier showed us also the length, an eighth or ninth longer than the others, in proportion of 180 to 165 equally taken from a mummy. *See Fig. 10.*

This beak only shows that there were among the ibis species, individuals larger than others, but proves nothing in favour of the tantalus, for it has not the same shaped beak as that; it precisely resembles the curlew; and, besides, the beak of the

(1) Hasselquist *Iter Palæstinum*, p. 249, *magnitudo gallinæ, seu cornicis*, and p. 250, *vasa quæ in sepulcris inveniuntur, cum avibus conditis, hujus sunt magnitudinis.*