

tantalus is a third larger than that of our large embalmed ibises, and two-fifths that of the smallest.

We are, moreover, assured that there are similar variations in the size of our European curlews, according to age and sex; they are still larger in the green curlews of Italy, and in our pewits (*barges*;) and it appears that this is a property common to the greater part of the species of long-billed (*becasses*) birds.

Finally, our naturalists returned from the expedition to Egypt with a rich harvest of objects, ancient as well as modern. My learned friend, M. Geoffroy St. Hilaire, particularly occupied himself in collecting, with great care, mummies of every sort, and had brought a great number of those of the ibis, as well from Saccara as from Thebes.

The former were in the same state as those brought by M. Grobert; that is to say, that their bones had experienced a kind of half combustion, and were without consistency; they broke on the least touch, and it was very difficult to procure one entire, still more to detach them so as to form a skeleton.

The bones of those of Thebes were much better preserved, either from the greater heat of the climate, or from the greater care bestowed in their preparation; and M. Geoffroy having sacrificed several of them, my assistant, M. Rousseau, contrived, by the exercise of patience, skill, and ingenious and delicate methods, to form an entire skeleton, by stripping all the bones, and uniting them with a fine wire thread. This skeleton has been placed in the museum, of which it forms one of the most striking ornaments. We subjoin an engraving of it. See *Fig. 7.*

We remark that this mummy must have been