

imperfect, and Buffon believed that he detected the ibis in it, it is easily seen, as well as by what Poccocke says of it, that this bird must have been carnivorous; and, in fact, we see by the figure given by Bruce (vol. v., p. 191, of the French edition,) that Pharaoh's fowl was only the *rachama*, or small white vulture, with black wings (*vultur percnopterus* of Linnæus) a bird very different from that which we have above proved to be the ibis.

Poccocke says, that it appears by the descriptions given of the ibis, and by the figures which he had seen of it in the temples of Upper Egypt, that it was a species of crane. I have seen, he adds, a quantity of these birds in the islands of the Nile: they were for the most part of a grayish colour (French translation, ed. 12mo. vol. ii., p. 153.) These few words are enough to prove that he did not know the ibis better than the others.

The learned have not been more fortunate in their conjectures than the travellers. Middleton compares with the ibis, a bronze figure of a bird with a short curved beak, the neck very long, and the head ornamented with a small crest, a figure which never had any similarity to the bird of the Egyptians (Antiq. Mon. pl. 10, p. 129.) This figure, besides, is not at all in the Egyptian style, and Middleton himself agrees that it must have been made at Rome. Saumaise, on Solinus, says nothing which relates to the real question.

As to the black ibis, which Aristotle places near Pelusium only,(1) it was long thought that Belon alone had seen it.(2) The bird described by him under this name is a species of curlew, to which he

(1) Hist. Anim. lib. ix. cap. xxvii. and lib. x. cap. xxx.

(2) Buffon's Hist. Natur. des Oiseaux, in 4to. vol. viii., p. 17.