

tions of natural history, that we cannot make of much consequence whatever one of the lower order might assert.

Another objection may be made against me, drawn from the long extending and black feathers which cover the rump of our bird, and of which we detect some traces in the *abouhannes* of Bruce.

The ancients, it may be said, say nothing of it in their descriptions, and their figures of it do not represent them. But I have, to back my assertion, more than a written testimony or a traced image. I have found precisely similar feathers in one of the mummies of Saccara; I preserve them most carefully, as being at once a singular monument of antiquity, and a proof undeniable of the identity of the species. These feathers having an uncommon form, not being found, I believe, in any other curlew, leave, in fact, no doubt of the accuracy of my opinion.

I conclude this memoir by a recapitulation of its results.

1st. The *tantalus* ibis of Linnæus should form a genus distinct from the *tantalus loculator*. Their character will be *rostrum læve, validum, arcuatum, apice utrinque emarginatum*.

2nd. The other *tantali* of the latter editions should form a genus with the common curlews, and may be called the *numenius*. Their characters will be *rostrum teres, gracile, arcuatum, apice mutico*, for the special character of the sub-genus of the ibises we must add, *sulco laterali per totum longitudinem exarato*.

The white ibis of the ancients is not the ibis of Perrault and Buffon, which is a *tantalus*; nor the ibis of Hasselquist, which is an *ardea*; nor the ibis of Maillet, which is a *vulture*; but a bird of the