

destruction occasioned by man, cannot admit of doubt. In those which supply fur, a remarkable proof of this inference is cited in a late number of the American Journal of Science. "Immediately after South Georgia was explored by Captain Cook, in 1771, the Americans commenced carrying seal-skins from thence to China, where they obtained most exorbitant prices. *One million two hundred thousand skins* have been taken from that island alone, since that period; and nearly an equal number from the Island of Desolation! The numbers of the fur-seals killed in the South Shetland Isles (S. lat. 63°,) in 1821 and 1822, amounted to three hundred and twenty thousand. This valuable animal is now almost extinct in all these islands." From the most authentic statements it appears certain that the fur trade must henceforward decline, since the advanced state of geographical science shows that no new countries remain to be explored. In North America the animals are slowly decreasing from the persevering efforts, and the indiscriminate slaughter, practised by the hunters, and by the appropriation to the use of man, of those forests and rivers which once afforded them food and protection. They recede with the aborigines before the tide of civilization.

4. THE APTERYX AUSTRALIS. — An extraordinary bird, a native of New Zealand, of which but few living individuals are known to naturalists, appears to be on the point of extinction; it is the