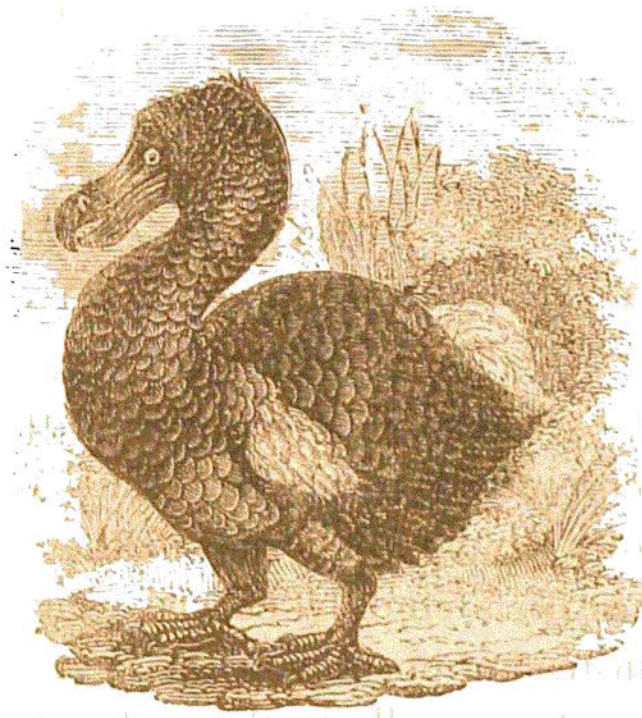


5. THE DODO (*Didus ineptus*).—A remarkable instance of the extirpation of a peculiar type of organization is afforded by the dodo, which has been annihilated, and become a denizen of the fossil kingdom, almost before our eyes. The dodo was a bird of the gallinaceous tribe, larger than a turkey, which abounded in the Mauritius and adjacent islands, when those countries were first



TAB. 17.—THE DODO.

colonized by the Dutch, about two centuries ago. This bird formed the principal food of the inhabitants, but it was found to be incapable of domestication, and its numbers therefore soon became ornament their war dresses. Captain Symonds also mentions the apteryx as frequenting Cloudy Bay, and affording excellent sport to the hunters, to whom it is of great value, on account of its feathers, which are held in high estimation among the natives.