

course by day and by night; for as the plumage of the under side of its body is not impervious to the water, it cannot continue long upon it, but prefers to brave the wind and the tempest, and to elevate itself above the storm, and for repose retires to lofty rocks and woody islets.

The *albatross* is the analogue of the *vulture*, and the largest of the sea-birds, and his wings expand sometimes to the extent of twenty feet; like his prototype, he is occasionally so gorged with food as to lose the power of flying, and when pursued, his only resource is to disgorge his overloaded stomach. Mr. Bennet has given a very interesting account of the mode of flight of this bird, to which I must refer the reader.*

I observed, in the last chapter, that one of the short-winged family of this Order, the *merganser*, appears to be connected with the *Saurians* by its serrated beak; but the *penguins*, which are at the foot of the same Family and of the Order, seem connected with the *Chelonians*, their rudimental wings and their legs approaching the paddles and webbed feet of the turtles and some of the tortoises. Their plumage, when not analyzed, resembles very much the fur of a seal, or some quadruped.

Order 2.—I have already noticed several circumstances relative to the birds of this Order;† I shall not, therefore, in this place, enlarge much upon them. Their general function is not only to devour the smaller fishes, aquatic Molluscans, and other animals, as well as their spawn, that inhabit the waters of the globe, whether salt or fresh, but also those that are found in their vicinity, as worms, small reptiles, and insects in their different states; and their form is particularly adapted to their function: very long legs and toes; naked knees; a long sharp beak; where they have to

* Wanderings, &c. i. 45—47.

† See above, pp. 131, 144.