

Creator with an instinct still more wonderful; it seems to have a natural inclination for the society of man, and seems to occupy the same place amongst birds that the *dog* does amongst quadrupeds. When taken and fed in a house, it becomes attached to the inmates. Like the dog, it knows the voice of its master, and will follow or precede him when he goes out, quits him with reluctance, and appears delighted when it sees him again. Sensible of his caresses, it returns them with every mark of affection and gratitude: it seems even jealous of his attentions, for it will peck at the legs of those who come too near to him. It knows and acknowledges also the friends of the family. It sometimes takes a dislike to individuals, and whenever they appear, attacks them, and endeavours to drive them away. Its courage is equal to that of the dog, for it will attack animals bigger and better armed than itself. Sonnini, who relates the preceding anecdotes from his own observation, was also told that in some parts of America, these birds were entrusted with the care of the young poultry, and even of the flocks of sheep, which they conducted to and from their pastures.\*

The *common Stork*† seems equally attached to man, and in return has generally met with protection from him, and in many nations has been accounted a sacred bird that, it is a sin to kill or molest; and they are entitled to these immunities, not only on account of their philanthropic instincts, but likewise because they destroy lizards, frogs, serpents, and other noxious reptiles, which are a considerable annoyance in low and marshy districts. The *black Stork*‡ is of a less social turn, and avoids the neighbourhood of man, and frequents solitary marshes and thick woods, where it nidificates on old trees.

\* N. D. D'H. N. i. 190.

† *Ciconia alba*.

‡ *C. nigra*.