

analogues of the Monkeys and other Quadrumanes, which they exceed, in their faculty of learning to articulate many words, for which their lower larynx is particularly constructed, and thus mimic the *utterance* of man, as the former animals do his *actions*; a circumstance which seems to have induced some ornithologists to place them at the head of their Class,\* in contrast with the latter animals.

There is a genus belonging to this Order, found in the southern parts of Africa, the species of which are called *bee-cuckows*,† and are remarkable for indicating both to the honey-ratel‡ and the Hottentot the subterranean nests of certain bees, which they do by a particular cry, morning and evening, and by a gradual and slow flight towards the quarter where the swarm of bees have taken up their abode; the beast and the man both attend to the notice, seek the spot, and dig up the nest; and to the share of the bird generally falls, not the part stored with the *honey*, but that in which the *grubs* are contained:§ so that the bird, though it invites others to partake with it, has its own subsistence, which it could not otherwise readily come at, principally in view. Both this animal and its companion, the ratel, are fitted by Providence for their function, and protected from the danger to which they are exposed from the stings of the irritated bees by a very hard skin. The bees, however, sometimes revenge themselves on the treacherous bird by attacking it about the head and eyes, and so destroying it.|| It is singular, and affords a most convincing proof of design, that two animals that are so necessary to each other, the one to indicate, and the other to excavate their common prey, should each be defended by the same kind of armour, and each seek a different portion of the spoil, suited to its habits.

\* Illiger, &c.

† Indicator major, minor Vieill, &c.

‡ Vivera mellivora.

§ Sparrmann, Voyage, ii. 181, 187.

|| Cuv. Règn. An. i. 455. Sparrmann, Voy. ii. 182.