a young male, for Molruc expreſsly ſays, that the female is smaller than the male, of a brown colour, and has no ruff about the neck, only a ſmall tuft at the back part.

Theſe birds are ſaid to make the neſt among the inacceſsible rocks, and to lay two white eggs, larger than thoſe of & turkey ; are very deſtructive to ſheep, and will in troops often attempt calves ; in which case, some of them firſt pick out the eyes, whilſt others attack the poor animal on all ſides, and ſoon tear him to pieties. This gives riſe to the following ſtratagem, uſed by the peaſants of Chili : One of them wraps himſelf up in the hide of a freſh killed ſheep or ox, and lies ſtill on the ground ; the condor, ſuppoſing it to be lawful prey, flies down to ſecure it, when the perſon concealed lays hold of the legs of the bird, his hands being well covered with gloves ; and immediately his comrades, who are concealed at a diſtance, run in, and aſſiſt to ſecure the depredator, by falling on him with ſticks till they have killed him. See Plate DX. fig. 4.

2. The *Percnopterus,* or Egyptian vultur. The appear­ance of this bird is as horrid as can well be imagined, viz. the “face is naked and wrinkled ; the eyes are large and black ; the beak black and hooked ; the talons large, and extending ready for prey ; and the whole body polluted with filth: theſe are qualities enough to make the beholder shudder with horror. Notwithſtanding this, the inhabitants of Egypt cannot be enough thankful to Providence for this bird. All the places round Cairo are filled with the dead bodies of asses and camels ; and thouſands of theſe birds fly about, and de­vour the carcaſes before they putrify and fill the air with noxious exhalations. The inhabitants of Egypt, and after them Maillet in his Deſcription of Egypt, ſay, that they yearly follow the caravan to Mecca, and devour the filth of the slaughtered beaſts, and the carcaſes of the camels which die on the journey. They do not fly high, nor are they afraid of men. If one is killed, all the rest ſurround him in the ſame manner as do the royſton crows ; they do not quit the places they fre­quent, though frightened by the explosion of a gun, but im­mediately return thither. Maillet imagines this bird to be the ibis of the ancients : but it is ſcarcely to be imagined, that a wiſe nation ſhould pay ſuch honours to an unclean, im­pure, and rapacious bird, which was not perhaps ſo common before the Egyptians filled the ſtreets with carcaſes. If the ibis is to be found, it muſt certainly be looked for in the ordo of grallεe of Linnaeus ; and we imagine it to be the white stork *(Ardea cicona),* which is ſo common in Egypt. The Arabians call it *rochaeme ;* the French living in Egypt, give it the name of *chapon de Pharaon,* or *de Mahometh.*

3. The *aura,* or carrion vulture, according to Mr Latham, is about the ſize of a turkey, though it varies in size in dif­ferent parts. The bill is white ; the end black ; irides bluiſh saffron-colour. The bead, and part of the neck, are bare of feathers ; and of a red, or rather rufous colour. The ſides of the head warted, not unlike that of a turkey. The whole plumage is brown black, with a purple and green gloſs in different reflections ; but in ſome birds, eſpecially young ones, greatly verging to dirty brown. The feathers of the quills and tail are blacker than the reſt of the body. The legs are fleſh-colour ; the claws black.

This bird is very common in the West Indies, and both in North and South America. It feeds on dead carcases,ſnakes, &c. like moſt of this genus ; which makes the ſmell of it very offensive. In general, it is very tame in its wild state, but particularly ſo when trained up from being young. This our author experienced in two birds ſent home from Jamaica. They were ſuffered to run wild about the gar­den, and were alert and briſk during the ſummer months ; but impatient of the leaſt cold; for a rainy day, with the ſlighteſt degree of cold, obliged them to creep for ſhelter. In the West Indies, they rooſt together of nights, in vaſt numbers, like rooks in this country. They are reckoned a moſt uſeful animal in the places where they reſort ; which ſecures their ſafety, added to a penalty for killing one, which is in force in Jamaica, and other iſlands of the Weſt Indies.

4. The *ſagittarius,* or ſecretary, is a moſt singular ſpecies, Being particularly remarkable from the great length of its legs ; which at firſt fight would induce one to think it be­longed to waders: but the characters of the vultur are ſo ſtrongly marked throughout, as to leave no doubt to which claſs it belongs.

The bird, when ſtanding erect, is full three feet from the top of the head to the ground. The bill is black, ſharp, and crooked, like that of an eagle ; the head, neck, breaſt, and upper parts of the body, are of a bluiſh aſh colour : the legs are very long, ſtouter than thoſe of a heron, and of a brown colour ; claws ſhortiſh, but crooked, not very ſharp, and of a black colour ; from the hind-head ſprings a number of long feathers, which hang looſe behind like a pendent creſt ; theſe feathers ariſe by pairs, and are longer as they are lower down on the neck ; this creſt the bird can erect or depreſs at pleaſure ; it is of a dark colour, almoſt black ; the webs are equal on both ſides, and rather curled ; and the feathers, when erected, ſomewhat incline towards the neck ; the two middle feathers of the tail twice as long as any of the reſt.

This singular ſpecies inhabits the internal parts of Africa, and is frequently ſeen at the Cape of Good Hope. It is alſo met with in the Philippine iſlands.

The deſcription was taken by Mr Latham from three that were alike, which he ſaw in England alive ſome years since ; two of which are now in the Leverian muſeum. From confinement they had loſt their two long tail feathers ; but this want was supplied by ſome accurate drawings by Sir Joſeph Banks, taken from the life at the Cape.

As to the manners of this bird, it is on all hands allowed that it principally feeds on rats, lizards, ſnakes, and the like ; and that it will become familiar : whence Sonnerat is of opinion, that it might be made uſeful in ſome of our co­lonies, if encouraged, towards the deſtruction of thoſe peſts. They call it at the Cape of Good Hope slangeater, i. e. snake-eater. A great peculiarity belongs to it, perhaps ob­ſerved in no other ; which is, the faculty of ſtriking forwards with its legs, never backwards. Dr Solander has ſeen one of theſe birds take up a ſnake, ſmall tortoiſe, or ſuch like, in its claws; when daſhing it from thence againſt the ground with great violence, if the victim was not killed at firſt, it repeated the operation till that end was anſwered ; after which it ate it up quietly. Dr J. R. Forſter mentioned a further circumſtance, which he says was ſuppoſed to be pe­culiar to this bird ; that ſhould it by any accident break the leg, the bone would never unite again.

VULVA, in anatomy. See there, n⁰ 132.

UVULA, in anatomy. See there, n⁰ 102.

UZ, or *Utz*, the country and place of residence of Job.In the genealogy of the patriarchs there are three perſons called Uz, either of which might give this diſtrict its name. The firſt was the grandſon of Sem, by his son Aram (Gen. xxii. 23.), who, according to Joſephus, occupied the Trachonitis, and Damaſcus, to the north of Paleſtine : but Job was among the ſons of the Eaſt. Another *Uz w*as the ſon of Naher, Abraham’s brother (Gen. x. 21.), who appears to have removed, after passing the Euphrates, from Haran of Meſopotamia to Arabia Deſerta. The third *Uz* was a Horite, from mount Seir (Gen. xxxvi. 28.), and thus not of Eber's poſterity. Now the queſtion is, from which of these