

posed of the Greek words *guyps*, vulture, and *aëtos* eagle,\* because these birds have great affinities with the eagle and the vulture without, however, being either one or the other.

The distinctive characters of the gypaetes are a large head, the top flat: the beak straight, strong, elongated, and with the upper mandible puffed, crooked at the end, and longer than the under one: the head as well as the throat covered with very short, straight feathers: the feet short and covered with feathers: the talons elongated, pointed, and covered. But that which characterises more particularly these birds, is a brush of hair or stiff bristles, which hangs from the beak and forms a sort of beard.

Like the vultures and the eagles, gypaetes are found only on the highest mountains and inaccessible rocks. But they do not live solitary like the eagles; they assemble in small troops, and devour like the vultures dead animals and corrupted flesh: they have, however, the courage and the audacity of the eagle: so that, by their appetites and their natural habits, they approach as much to eagles and vultures, as by their exterior.

The

\* In order to preserve the etymology we ought to pronounce it *guypaete*, and not *gypaete*, as is usually done.