

M. Savigny, one of the naturalists of the expedition to Egypt, also assures us that he never discovered the *tantalus* in this country; but he found many of our *numenius* near the lake Menzale, in Lower Egypt, and he brought their relics away with him.

The *abouhannes* has been placed by M. Latham in his *Index Ornithologicus*, under the name of *tantalus Æthiopicus*; but he makes no mention of the conjecture of Bruce on its identity with the ibis.

Travellers before and after Bruce appear to have all been in error.

Belon thought that the white ibis was the stork, thereby evidently contradicting all testimonies; and none have been of his opinion except the apothecaries, who took the stork for an emblem, confounding it with the ibis to whom they attributed the invention of clysters. (1)

Prosper Alpinus, who relates that this invention was due to the ibis, gives no description of this bird in his medicine of the Egyptians. (2) In his Natural History of Egypt, he only speaks of it from Herodotus, to whose words he only adds, doubtless after a passage of Strabo, to which I shall recur presently, that this bird resembles the stork in size and figure. He says, that he was told that they were found in abundance, both white and black, on the banks of the Nile; but it is evident by his expressions, that he did not think they had been seen. (3)

Shaw says of the ibis, (4) that it is now excessively rare, and that he had never seen one. His *em-*

(1) Ælian, lib. ii., cap. xxxv. Phil. de Solest. An. Cic. de Nat. Deor. lib. ii. Phil. de Anim. Prop. 16, etc.

(2) De Med. Egypt. lib. i. fol. v. i. Ed. Paris, 1646.

(3) Recherches Egypt. lib. iv., cap. i. vol. i. p. 199, of the Leyden edit. 1735.

(4) See French translation, v. ii. p. 167.