

Many of the habits of this bird appear to show great dulness and want of understanding. For instance, it sometimes hides its head when closely pursued, as though it thereby quite concealed its whole body. Its senseless choice of food is also very remarkable: it greedily swallows anything that comes in its way, as pieces of wood, stone, rope, leather, iron, and glass.—Too great a quantity of iron thus taken into the stomach has caused the death of a bird. One was killed by eating from a heap of burning lime; and another, kept in the gardens of the Zoological Society of London, died from swallowing a part of a lady's parasol. It, however, lives chiefly on vegetable substances, as seed and grain, and is often found a most unwelcome visitor to the African farmer.

What time she lifteth up herself on high,
She scorneth the horse and his rider. Ver. 18.

Though the wings of the ostrich are of no service in flying, they are very useful for increasing its speed. It flaps them to the wind, using them as sails and paddles, and thus urges its way along with great force. In its rapid flight, its long toes cast the sand and stones behind it, like shot, against its pursuers.

The cry of this bird, when heard in the desert at night, is said to be hoarse, loud, and dismal, and at times like the groans or cries of a child in distress.—To this the prophet Micah, i. 8, alludes when afflicted with the ruin that was coming on his people: "I will wail and howl: I will make a mourning as the ostriches," or "owls," as the word is in the English translation of the Bible.

When M. Adamson was at Podar, a French factory on the southern bank of the river Niger, two young but well-grown ostriches, belonging to the factory, afforded him a very amusing sight. They were so tame that two little black boys mounted together on the back of the largest. No sooner did it feel their weight than it set off running as fast as possible, carrying them several times

round the village. M. Adamson then asked an adult negro to mount the smaller, and two others the larger of the birds. At first the ostriches moved at a sharp trot; but when they became a little heated, they stretched out their wings to catch the wind, and ran with the fleetness of a race horse.

The most valuable part of the bird is the feathers of the wings and tail, which are used as ornaments of dress, and in their unprepared state often sell for £16 per pound weight. The young reader may remember that the crest of the Prince of Wales is three ostrich feathers, with the motto, *Ich dien*, or "I serve." The origin of this is said to be as follows:—The king of Bohemia, who was slain at the battle of Cressy, in the year 1346, wore this crest and the motto. These were assumed by his conqueror, Edward, the Prince of Wales, and have been worn ever since by the heir to the British crown.

Mr. Moffat, in his work on "Missionary labors in South Africa," describes the method of the Bushmen in hunting ostriches. A native dressed with the skin and feathers of a bird, makes a good representation of a living ostrich. His legs being whitened, he approaches a flock of ostriches. The "human bird" mimics the real bird by picking on the ground and shaking his feathers: he now trots, and then walks, until he gets within bow shot, when he discharges a poisoned arrow, which he has concealed, and mostly succeeds in taking his prey.—*Child's Companion*.

The John Williams.

In a recent number of the *Record* we called the attention of our readers to a call that had been made by the friends of missions to the Sabbath School scholars of England, to contribute for the repair of the missionary ship, John Williams. We hope that call was not without some good results, although we have to acknowledge but one amount. It will, no doubt, be gratifying to find that the call made to the Sabbath School scholars of England, has been nobly responded to, as we find from