

the species and not overcharge the world) of this monster in the feathered creation! and into what can we resolve this rarity of a species so exceedingly pernicious, but into the wise and over ruling care of that adorable Providence, which, we are assured by the mouth of unerring truth, extendeth its concern not only to man, but to the meanest of the feathered tribe—ordering it so, that 'not a sparrow falleth to the ground, without our heavenly Father!'

Those, who, as weakly as wickedly, endeavour to attribute all things to chance, fate, and second causes, would do well to inform us, how it comes to pass, that the vast and destructive condour is so seldom found—is so slow in increase—while the fowls of an useful and beneficent sort, multiply so amazingly, and so plentifully contribute to our support and delight. Why should the hen, or the turkey, the duck, the goose, or the partridge, lead forth such a numerous brood; while the lonely terror of Peru sits desolate, with its single offspring, on the the top of the barren rock!

The balance of animals, preserved throughout the whole creation, is a manifest token of the divine providence. 'The whole surface of our globe (says an ingenious naturalist) can afford room and support only for such a number of all sorts of creatures; and if by their doubling, trebling, or any other multiplication of their kind, they should increase to double or treble that number, they must starve or devour one another, till the equilibrium was restored. The keeping therefore the balance even, is manifestly a work of the divine wisdom and providence. To which end the great author of existence hath determined the life of all creatures to such a length; and their increase to such a number, proportionate to their use in the world—the life of some creatures is long,

and their increase but small; and by that means they do not over stock the world. And the same benefit is effected where the increase is great, by the brevity of such creatures' lives, by their great use, by the frequent occasions there are of them for food to men or to other animals. It is a very remarkable act of the divine providence, that useful creatures are produced in great—and others in less plenty. The prodigious and frequent increase of insects, both in and out of the waters (for the supply of the fish, birds, &c.) may exemplify the one: and it is observable in the other, that creatures less useful, or by their voracity pernicious, have commonly fewer young, or do seldom bring forth; of which many instances may be given in the voracious beasts and animals: but the condour of Peru is a very particular and very sufficient instance.'

And may we not also remark the goodness of providence, in protecting the human species from those rapacious sons of ambition who are so rarely produced; and who, when they appear, may be termed condours—pernicious—destructive to mankind? Alexanders or Cæsars, spreading death and devastation, are the condours of the human race. Too little acquainted as the world is with peace, yet the madmen of this class, when they appear, make it an universal *accedens*—a field of blood!—Ye miserable condours—ye coroneted vultures of the human race—though your pride be absurdly flattered on earth—tho' your titles to grandeur are recorded with the blood of your unhappy subjects—and the heraldry of your families painted out with gore—though your fame be re-echoed to the skies, with the groans of the expiring in the field of battle—stop—stop your fury in driving the chariot of death—reflect how dire an account you must hereafter exhibit.

EXTRACTS FROM MR. LEDYARD'S LETTERS.

THE remarks upon men and things, of one who had seen so much of the world, must always be deemed precious. They are not the unmeaning daubings of a casual observer. Every word is expressive, and has a strong meaning, and suggests new ideas in every attentive reader. The following extracts therefore from his letters, will no doubt prove interesting to the public.

'August 26th. This day I was introduced by Rosette (the Venetian consul, at

that time *chargé d'affaires* for the English consul at Cairo) to the Aga Mahommed, the confidential minister of Ismael, the most powerful of the four ruling beys: He gave me his hand to kiss, and with it the promise of letters, protection and support through Turkish Nubia, and also to some chiefs far inland. In a subsequent conversation, he told me I should see in my travels a people who had power to transmute themselves into the forms of different animals. He asked me what I thought