

talons, the lower parts of which were buttoned down to the ankle ; his beard was long, and his lank black hair hung loosely over his shoulders ; his forehead was so broad and prominent that any tyro of phrenology would instantly have pronounced it the residence of a mind of strong powers ; his words impressed an assurance of rigid truth ; and as he directed the conversation to the study of the natural sciences, I listened to him with as much delight as Telemachus could have listened to Mentor. He had come to visit me, he said, expressly to see my drawings, having been told that my representations of birds were accompanied with those of shrubs and plants, and he was desirous of knowing whether I might have in my collection any with which he was unacquainted. I observed some impatience in his request to be allowed to see what I had. We returned to the house, when I opened my portfolio and laid them before him.

He chanced to turn over the drawing of a plant quite new to him. After inspecting it closely, he shook his head, and said no such plant existed in nature ; for, kind reader, M. de T., although a highly scientific man, was suspicious to a fault, and believed such plants only to exist as he had himself seen, or such as, having been discovered of old, had, according to Father Malebranche's expression, acquired a "venerable beard." I told him that the plant was common in the immediate neighborhood, and that I would show it to him on the morrow. "And why to-morrow, Mr. Audubon ; let us go now." We did so, and on reaching the bank of the river, I pointed to the plant. M. de T., I thought, had gone mad ; he plucked the plants one after another, danced, hugged me in his arms, and exultingly told me that he had got not merely a new species but a new genus.—When we returned home the naturalist opened the bundle which he had brought on his back, and took out a journal, rendered water-proof by a leather case, together with a small parcel of linen, examined the new plant and wrote its description. The examination of my drawings went on. His criticisms were of the greatest advantage to me ; being well acquainted with books as well as with nature, he was well fitted to give me advice. I was indeed heartily glad to have a naturalist under my roof.

Several days passed, during which we followed our several