

THE ECCENTRIC NATURALIST.

WHAT an odd looking fellow!" said I to myself, as, while walking by the river, I observed a man landing from a boat, with what I thought a bundle of dried clover on his back.—"How the boatmen stare at him. Sure he must be an original." He ascended with a rapid step, and approaching me, asked if I could point out the house of Mr. Audubon. "Why, I am the man," said I, "and will gladly lead you to my dwelling."

"The traveller rubbed his hands together with delight, and, drawing a letter from his pocket, handed it to me without any remark. I broke the seal, and read as follows:—"My dear Audubon, I send you an odd fish, which you may prove to be undescribed, and hope you will do so in your next letter. Believe me, always your friend, B." With all the simplicity of a backwoodsman, I asked the bearer where the odd fish was, when M. de T., (for, kind reader, the individual in my presence was none else than that renowned naturalist,) smiled, rubbed his hands, and with the greatest good humor said, "I am that odd fish I presume, Mr. Audubon." I felt confounded, and blushed, but contrived to stammer out an apology.

We soon reached the house, when I presented my guest to my family, and was ordering a servant to go to the boat for M. de T.'s luggage, when he told me he had none but what he brought on his back. He then loosened the pack of weeds, which had at first drawn my attention. He said in the gayest mood imaginable, that he had walked a great distance, and had only taken a passage on the *ark* to be put on this shore, and that he was sorry his apparel had suffered so much from his late journey. At table, however, his agreeable conversation made us forget his singular appearance; and, indeed, it was only as we strolled in the garden that his attire struck me as very remarkable: a long loose coat of yellow nankeen, much the worse for the many rubs it had got in its time, and stained all over with the juice of plants, hung loosely about him like a sack; a waistcoat of the same, with enormous pockets, and buttoned up to the chin, reached below over a pair of light pan-