

and deceive; what are we to look for, when you shall be no longer hackneyed in the ways of men; when interest shall have completed the obduration of your heart; and when experience shall have improved you in all the arts of guile? Dissimulation in youth is the forerunner of portly in old age. Its first appearance is the fatal omen of growing depravity and of future shame. It degrades parts and learning; it obscures the lustre of every accomplishment, and it sinks you into contempt with God and man. As you value, therefore, the approbation of Heaven, and the esteem of the world, cultivate the love of truth. Ingenuity and candour possesses the most powerful charm; they bespeak universal favour, they carry an apology for almost every failing. The path of truth is a plain and safe path, that of falsehood is a perplexing maze. After the first departure from sincerity, it is not in your power to stop. One artifice unavoidably leads on to another; till, as the intricacy of the labyrinth increases, you are left entangled in your own snare. Deceit discovers a little mind, which stops at temporary expedients, without rising to comprehensive views of conduct. It betrays, at the same time, a basely spirit. It is the resource of one who wants courage to avow his designs, or to rest upon himself. But openness of character displays that generous boldness, which ought to distinguish youth. To set out in the world with no other principle than a crafty attention to interest, betrays one who is destined for creeping through the inferior walks of life. To give an early preference to honour above gain, when they stand in competition; to despise every advantage, which cannot be attained without dishonest arts; to seek no means, and to stoop to no dissimulation, are the indications of a great mind, the presage of future eminence and distinction in life. At the same time, this virtuous sincerity is perfectly consistent with the most prudent vigilance and caution. It is opposed to cunning, not to true wisdom. It is not the simplicity of a weak and improvident, but the candour of an enlarged and noble mind; it is the mark of one who scorns deceit, because he accounts it both base and unprofitable; of one who seeks no disguise, because he needs none to hide him. Blair.

### THE BOOK OF NATURE LAID OPEN

“But who the various nations can declare  
That plough with busy wing the peopled air?  
These cleave the crumbling bark for insect food;  
Those dip the crooked beak in kindred blood;  
Some haunt the rushy moor, the lonely woods;  
Some bath their silver plumage in the floods.”

#### BIRDS.

The Ostrich, the Emu, and the Cassowary, are not only remarkable by reason of their superiority of size, but seem to claim our first attention among the feathery tribes on account of their constituting some of those apparent links, by which the winged is united to the order of Quadrupeds. For although these animals resemble birds in the outline, and in several parts of their confirmation, they certainly cannot be classed among the more perfect orders of the species, in as much as they do not make use of their wings for the purpose of flying; and as to internal formation, the Ostrich is said to have as great a resemblance to the four-footed as to the volatile order.

The structure of these creatures, as well as their appetites, is however well adapted for the

situations in which they are severally placed, and they appear to know well how to supply the defect of some of their members by the use which they make of others.

Of all animals that move on their legs, the Ostrich is by far the swiftest; and although the Arabians train their swiftest horses for the chase, it is not likely they would be successful in the pursuit of this animal, were it not for his circling manner of running: Nor is this surprising, when we consider, that this lofty mass of light materials is not only carried forward by his long springing legs, but is impelled along by his wings, which he keeps in constant operation, and apparently serve the purpose of ours.

The Emu, or Ostrich of the new continent, is also a remarkably swift runner, but its manner of assisting its legs is somewhat different from the former; besides making use of something behind, like a heel, to push it forward, this animal uses a kind of action peculiar to itself, first lifting up one wing & keeping it elevated for some time in form of a sail, then letting it drop and elevating the other by this means it moves along with such rapidity, that even the Greyhound can seldom overtake it. The favourite climate of the Cassowary seems to begin, where that of the Ostrich terminates, in the old world, and although its wings are so very small, that being covered with the hair on the back they are scarcely perceptible, it kicks up behind with the one leg, and then making a bound forward with the other, proceeds with such amazing speed, that the swiftest racer would be unable to maintain the pursuit!

*In the structure of Birds of the more perfect order, a few things demand our most serious attention.*

The whole body is shaped in the most convenient manner for making their way through the air; being, as Mr. RAY observes, constructed very near SIR ISAAC NEWTON'S form of least resistance. According to BAR, in his continuation of BUFFON: “it is neither extremely massive nor equally substantial in all its parts; but being designed to rise in the air, is capable of expanding a large surface without solidity. The body is sharp before, to pierce and make its way through that element; it then gradually increases in bulk, till it has acquired its just dimensions, and falls off in an expansive tail.”

The motion of this order being two-fold, walking and flying, they are provided with legs at once wonderfully contrived to walk with, and raise them like a spring for their flight; wings to buoy them up and wait them along; their evolutions, and to direct their course.

Although their feathery covering is admirably constructed for lightness and buoyancy, their wings are furnished with a strength that is amazing; and by these they are enabled to impel themselves forward with an inconceivable rapidity. To fit them the better for their flight, the feathers are disposed in the most perfect order, lying one way; and that they may glide more smoothly along, they are furnished with a gland situated on the rump, from which they occasionally press out oil with the bill, and anoint the feathers.

The beak, or bill of birds, is a curious piece of art, formed of a hard horny substance, constructed in the most commodious manner for piercing the air. Their ears stand not out from their head to retard their flight, while their eyes

are placed in such situations as to take in nearly a hemisphere on either side.

Birds have no teeth to chew their food, but those of the granivorous kind are provided with two stomachs; in one of which the victuals are softened and macerated before they enter the other to be completely digested. Being often employed in traversing the upper regions, were they behoved to be much incumbered did they bring forth their young in the manner of quadrupeds, their manner of generating is wisely made to differ, and their offspring are produced by means of eggs. In the speedy growth of young birds, by which they acquire a degree of strength and size so as to be able soon to provide for themselves, we have also an instance of the tender care of providence.

What power unseen inspires these little creatures which “the passion of the groves,” at the most fit season for forming their alliances!—when the genial temper of the weather covers the trees with leaves, the fields with grass, and produces such swarms of insects for the support of the future progeny? And, how comes it to pass that no sooner is the connubial league formed than these little warblers, (a pattern to new-married couples in humble life, who have nothing but their own industry to depend on) immediately set about building their nests, and make preparation for their tender offspring?

In the building of their nests, what art and ingenuity are displayed! Whether they are constructed from the collected portions of clay and mortar, or from the more light materials of moss and straw, these little creatures contrive to mould them into the most convenient form and to give them a durability proportionate to their wants.

Nor is the wonder less, that birds of the same kind, however widely separated, should all follow the same order of architecture in the construction of their habitations; that each should make choice of the situation most suitable to its kind, and that all should agree in laying as many eggs as to be sufficient to keep up their species, yet no more than they conveniently hatch and bring up.

In the incubation, with what patience do these creatures sit on their eggs when necessary, till the young are ready to be hatched, and then how officious in assisting the little prisoners to escape!—With what imitable care do they afterwards watch over and provide for the brood, till it is capable of doing so for itself; and with what scrupulous exactness during this period they distribute to each his allotted portion of food.

“What is this Mighty Breath! ye sages say,  
That in a powerful language, felt, not heard,  
Instructs the fowls of heaven?—What but God,  
Inspiring God! who, boundless Spirit all,  
And unremitting energy pervades,  
Adjusts, sustains, and agitates the whole.”

These observations are applicable to the feathery tribe in general; but if we turn to the peculiarities of a few of the different species, we shall observe that the wisdom and the goodness of Deity are no less conspicuous. The Ostrich, formed to traverse the burning sands of Africa, is long legged, light, and amazing agile. Denied the natural reservoir of the Camel, it is endowed with such an abstinence from water, that the Arabs assert that it never drinks! and it may roam many hundreds of miles in quest