

wit'out the feathers is a foot a and hal, and being stretched out with the feathers is three feet.

The plumage is much alike in all; this is, generally black and white, though some of them are said to be grey. The greatest feathers are at the extremities of the wings and tail, and the largest are generally white. The next row is black and white; and of the small feathers on the back and belly, some are white and others black. There are no feathers on the sides, nor yet on the thighs, nor under the wings.

The ostrich is a native only of the torrid regions of Africa, and has never bred out of that country which first produced it. This bird so disqualified for society with man, inhabits, from preference, the most solitary and horrid deserts, where there are few vegetables to clothe the surface of the earth, and where the rain never comes to refresh it. The Arabians assert that the ostrich never drinks, and the place of its habitation seems to confirm the assertion. In these formidable regions ostriches are seen in large flocks, which, to the distant spectator, appear like a regiment of cavalry, and have often alarmed a whole caravan. There is no desert, how barren soever, but is capable of supplying these animals with provision; they eat almost everything; and these barren tracts are thus doubly grateful, as they afford both food and security.

The ostrich lays very large eggs, some of them being above five inches in diameter, and weighing upwards of fifteen pounds. These eggs have a very hard shell, somewhat resembling those of the crocodile, except that those of the latter are less and rounder.

The strength and size of the ostrich have suggested to man the

experiment of using them as animals of burden. Persons ride on them as represented in the picture.



### THE MUTILATED PRAYER.

Mrs. Allen told her son James it was time he was in bed.

"Is it?" replied James, in a tone indicating that he did not know that this usual hour for retiring had passed.

"Yes, my son; it is nearly half-past eight o'clock. Go and bid your father good night, and take your little lamp, and go to your room."

James obeyed his mother, but not with his usual cheerfulness and alacrity. This was owing to two reasons. The first was the consciousness that he had not done right, in replying as he did to his mother's remark, "it is time for you to go to bed." He felt that in so doing, he had acted an untruth. He had been carefully taught not only to speak the truth, but to *act* the truth. He knew, that to convey a wrong impression by a tone or gesture, was as truly a deviation from the truth, as a formal statement of a falsehood. The other reason related to some occurrences of the day, which will be noticed in the sequel.

James stopped once or twice on his way to his chamber, and looked steadily upon the floor before him, as if buried in profound thought.