

*tion Vultures of Jamaica*; two of which I kept for some time. They would indeed eat any raw flesh, but expressed a particular happiness when any tainted food was offered them; fluttering with expanded wings, without ceasing, and falling on with double the appearance of appetite, as well as devouring twice the quantity, as at other times.

It is observed, that Vultures, in general, are least numerous in proportion to the coldness of the climate; and in the more northern ones, they are wholly wanting. — A kind disposition of Providence this! lest the putrid effluvia of the dead should, in the hotter regions, too much injure the health of the living.

Notwithstanding what has been said towards defining the genus, some will be found, wherein both the *Vulture* and *Falcon* are so strongly marked, as to render it doubtful where to place them. In this case, the *manners* must be taken in, if they can be known. Mr. *Pennant* justly observes, that they are “greedy and voracious “to a proverb, and not timid\*”; for they prey in the midst of cities, undaunted by mankind.”

\* This circumstance, perhaps, may arise from their not being persecuted by man; which happens to the greater part of birds, whose chance it is either to be accounted as obnoxious by him, or are suitable to his appetite for food. — The *Storks* in *Holland* are a proof of this; walking boldly in the middle of the streets, as if they knew none would hurt them: which is truly the case; as that person thinks himself fortunate, who has a nest of one of these on his chimney. And if a stranger should kill one purposely, he would run great chance of losing his life by the enraged multitude.

This tameness of the volatile part of the creation in general, when not annoyed by man, is manifest, from the accounts of our circumnavigators; who inform us, that on the more desert places where they touched, birds of all kinds were so familiar, as not to fly away at their approach; regarding them more as objects of wonder than fear.