

the late Right Hon. George Canning ; after that statesman's decease it passed into the hands of Mr. Leadbeater. The representation of this bird in the 'Planches Coloriées' of M. Temminck is undoubtedly the first that was published ; but the author evidently confounded it with a nearly allied species discovered in Brazil, and figured in the 'Avium Species Novæ' &c. of Dr. Spix.

The principal part of the above remarks was published in a former edition of this work nearly thirty years ago. In the long interval which has elapsed much additional information has been obtained respecting this fine bird ; and I am greatly indebted to Mr. Osbert Salvin for the full and interesting statement subjoined, which I am sure will be read by every ornithologist with the greatest pleasure :—

"In the 'Ornithology' of Francis Willughby (edited by John Ray, Fellow of the Royal Society, and published in the year 1678), page 385, will be found 'An Appendix to the History of Birds, containing such Birds as we suspect for fabulous, or such as are too briefly and inaccurately described to give us a full and sufficient knowledge of them, taken out of Franc. Hernandez especially.' Under the heading 'Of fair-feathered Birds' Willughby translates from Hernandez as follows :—'Its feathers have made the Quetzaltototl more precious than gold ; and therefore it is called the *bird of feathers*. It hath a crest, and is in good part adorned with Peacocks' feathers, of the bigness of a *Pie* or *Pigeon*, having a crooked yellow Bill, and Feet something yellow. The Tail is composed of very long feathers of a shining green and of a Peacock colour, like for shape to the leaves of *Flouer-de-luce*, and covered above with other black ones, but beneath and where they touch the Peacock-coloured or purple ones (which are in the middle) inclining to green, as if nature took care of the beauty of the middle feathers. The crest consists of shining and very beautiful feathers. The breast and neck underneath are covered with a red and shining plumage, and with a purple [pavoninâ], as is also the back and sides under the wings and the belly between the legs ; but the feathers in this last place are of a fainter colour, slender, and soft. The feathers of the wings are very long, tintured with a dilute green and ending in sharp points. The feathers growing on the shoulders are green, but black underneath ; but those between the wings are sometimes crooked and of the colour of the claws. The feathers of this bird are highly esteemed among the *Indians*, and preferred even before gold itself—the longer ones for crests and other ornaments, both of the head and whole body, both for War and Peace, but the rest for setting in feather-works and composing the figures of saints and other things, which they are so skilful in doing as not to fall short of the most artificial pictures drawn in colours. For this purpose they also mingle and weave in together with these the feathers of the *Humming Bird*. These birds live in the province of *Tocolotlan*, beyond *Quantemallam*, towards *Honduras*, where great care is taken that no man kill them. Only it is lawful to pluck off their feathers, and so let them go naked ; yet not for all men indifferently, but only for the lords and proprietors of them ; for they descend to the heirs as rich possessions. *Francisco Hernandez*, in some pretermitted annotations, adds concerning the taking these birds some things worth the knowing. The fowlers (saith he) betake themselves to the mountains, and, there hiding themselves in small cottages, scatter up and down boiled *Indian* wheat, and prick down in the ground many rods besmeared with birdlime, wherewith the birds entangled become their prey. They fly in flocks among trees, on which they are wont to sit, making no unpleasant noise with their whistling and singing in consort. They have by the instinct of nature such knowledge of their riches that, once sticking to the birdlime, they remain still and quiet, not struggling at all, that they may not mar or injure their feathers. The beauty whereof they are so in love with that they choose rather to be taken and killed than, by endeavouring to get their liberty, do any thing that may deface or prejudice them. They are said to pick holes in trees and therein to build and breed up their young. They feed upon worms and certain wild *Pinnæ* of that sort which Mexicans are wont to call *Matzatli*. They love the open air, nor hath it been yet found that ever they would be kept tame or brought up in houses. They make a noise not much unlike *Parrots*, but they have a cheerful and pleasant whistle and they sing thrice a day, to wit, in the morning, at noon, and about sunset.

"Thus wrote Hernandez now two hundred years ago ; and Willughby, his translator, evidently doubted the existence of such a bird as his Quetzaltototl. It was not until the year 1825 that a magnificent bird of the family of the Trogons was made known to science, which can be no other than the bird Hernandez described so many years before. When seeking for objects for illustration in his well-known work the 'Planches Coloriées des Oiseaux,' M. Temminck had lent to him by Mr. Leadbeater a bird which he described and figured (Pl. 372) under the name *Trogon pavoninus*, supposing the species to be the same as one then recently described by the Brazilian traveller, Spix, under that name. In 1831, however, De la Llave renamed the same bird, bestowing upon it the barbarous title *Mocimno*, under which it is now known to the