S O M E
M E M O I R S
OF THE
L I F E AND W O R K S
O F

GEORGE EDWARDS,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL AND ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETIES.

*His Search,
Amid the dark Recesses of his Works,
The great Creator sought.*

THOMSON.

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M E M O I R S

O F

MR. G E O R G E E D W A R D S.

GEORGE EDWARDS was born at *Stratford*, a hamlet belonging to *Westham* in *Essex*, on the 3d of *April* 1694. He passed some of his early years under the tuition of a clergyman, named *Hewit*, who was then master of a public school at *Layton-Stone*, which is only a few miles distant from the village where he was born. After quitting the school he was placed with another minister of the established church at *Brentwood*; and, being designed by his parents for business, was put apprentice to a tradesman in *Fenchurch Street*. His master, not less distinguished for his strict regard to religion, than for his uncommon skill in the learned languages, treated him with remarkable kindness and civility.

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An event happened about the middle of the term of his apprenticeship, which it is necessary to mention. Dr. *Nicholas*, a person of eminence in the physical world, and a relative of his master, happened to die. His books, which were very numerous, having been removed from *Covent Garden* to an apartment then occupied by our young naturalist, he availed himself of this unexpected incident, and passed all the leisure of the day, and not unfrequently a considerable part of the night, in turning over this collection of natural history, sculpture, painting, astronomy, and antiquities.

The expectation of obtaining that opulence which commerce bestows on her assiduous votaries, now ceased. The shop and the exchange had lost all their delights; and, on the expiration of his servitude, he conceived a design to travel into foreign countries, to improve his taste, and enlarge his mind.

In 1716, having no intention of entering on business, he took shipping for *Holland*, and visited most of the principal towns of the *United Provinces*, remaining absent a month. On his return, he was two years unemployed in *London* and its neighbourhood,
and

and then went on board a ship bound to *Norway*, at the invitation of a gentleman who was disposed to be his friend, and whose nephew was master of the vessel in which he embarked.

Nothing material occurred on the voyage, and they soon arrived at the designed port. A country diversified with rocks of stupendous magnitude, and trees of unfading verdure, where some of the natives have scarce experienced the arts of civilization, could not fail to afford novelty, if it did not impart satisfaction to an Englishman. The sun, during his stay, set only to rise; and few hours were allotted to sleep, either by him, or his company. Sometimes he wandered on the banks of creeks, the haunt of sea-fowl, and other rude birds, where no articulate voice was heard; and at other seasons, remarked the progress of vegetation among the hills: And yet such is the force of custom in the human mind, that the rude inhabitant has no ambition to quit his native mountains, clad with perpetual snow, for the sunny regions of more southern latitudes. Our author frequently experienced among these illiterate people that hospitality which flourishes less vigorously in more civilized countries.

In his excursion to *Frederickstadt*, he was not distant from the thunder of *Charles XII*'s cannon, who at that time besieged *Frederickshall*; where that unfortunate monarch stained his laurels by an ignominious defeat, and was deprived of his life as well as his crown.*

He

* Mr. Wraxall, in his entertaining and instructive Remarks, lately made in a Tour through some of the Northern parts of Europe, after giving a few pertinent and judicious observations on the Death of the famous *Charles XII*. King of Sweden, and on *Voltaire*'s inconsistent account of that extraordinary and dark transaction, concludes :

“ I asked Count Liewen, an ancient nobleman, if he remembered that monarch's death, and would favour me with the particulars of it. He gave me the fullest answer to this question; which, as it is perhaps the most authentic and indisputable authority to be procured, I shall repeat, as nearly as my memory assists me, in his own words.

“ There are now very few men alive, said he, who can speak with so much certainty to that point as myself. I was in the camp before *Frederickshall*, and had the honour to serve the king in quality of page, on that night when he was killed. I have no doubt he was assassinated. The night was extremely dark, and it was almost an impossibility that a ball from the fort could enter his head at a distance, and on the spot where he stood. I saw the king's body, and am certain the wound in his temple was made by a pistol bullet. Who gave it, is unknown. Siker was suspected, because he was not with his majesty previous to the blow, but appeared a moment after. Those, added he, who are used to military affairs, know the report and noise which a cannon ball makes: but the report of the shot which destroyed the king, was that of a piece close at hand, and totally different. I do not believe the prince of *Hesse* was concerned, or privy to it, in any degree; but the belief that he was put to death by a private hand, was general in the army at that time.”

He was disappointed of visiting that country by this circumstance, as the *Swedish* army was particularly assiduous in confining strangers, and those who could not give a good account of themselves when they happened to meet with them. But notwithstanding all his precaution, he was confined by the *Danish* guard, who erroneously supposed him a spy employed by the enemy to obtain intelligence of their designs. However, by procuring testimonials of his innocence, a release was granted.

In *July* he embarked for *England*, but the ship, on its arrival at *Scilly*, was detained by contrary winds. During his confinement here, his leisure time was chiefly taken up with fishing, and such other amusements as his situation would admit of; and was not a little delighted with the vast cliffs of that romantic island, and the harsh clamours of its feathered inhabitants. Soon after his arrival in *London*, he retired to his native place, where he spent the winter. But being desirous of visiting *France*, went by way of *Dieppe* to *Paris*, in 1719; and having seen its curiosities, took a lodging in a village called *Greencourt*, in the great park of *Versailles*: but to his no small mortification,

tification, the menagery, at that time, had no living creature in it; the court not residing there in the king's minority, the famous collection of animals, &c. had been neglected, and all dead or dispersed.

The pompous cavalcades, and exposition of reliques, in the several churches and religious houses, excited his attention; and the labours of the sculptor and painter, in the public buildings, claimed his admiration.

During his stay in *France*, he made two journies of one hundred miles each; the first to *Chalons* in *Champagne*, in *May* 1720; the second on foot to *Orleans* and *Blois*, in a disguised habit, with a view to escape those sons of rapine, who often make their depredations on travellers. An edict happened at that time to be unfortunately issued, to secure vagrants, in order to transport themselves to *America*, as the banks of the *Mississippi* wanted population; and our author narrowly escaped a western voyage.

On his arrival in *Britain*, Mr. EDWARDS closely pursued his favourite study of Natural History; applying himself to drawing and colouring such animals as fell

fell under his notice. A strict attention to natural, more than picturesque beauty claimed his earliest care: Birds first engaged his particular attention; and having purchased some of the best pictures of these subjects, he was induced to make a few drawings of his own; which were admired by the curious, who encouraged our young naturalist to proceed, by paying a good price for his early labours.

Among his first patrons and benefactors may be mentioned JAMES THEOBALDS, Esq; of *Lambeth*; a gentleman zealous for the promotion of science. Our artist, thus unexpectedly encouraged, increased in skill and assiduity, and procured, by his application to his favourite pursuit, a decent subsistence, and a large acquaintance. However, he remitted his industry in 1731, when, in company of two of his relations, he made an excursion to *Holland* and *Brabant*, where he collected several scarce books and prints, and had an opportunity to examine the original pictures of several great masters at *Antwerp*, *Brussels*, *Utrecht*, and other great cities.

In *December* 1733, by the recommendation of the great Sir HANS SLOANE, Bart. president of the college

lege of physicians, he was chosen librarian, and had apartments in the college. This office was peculiarly agreeable to his taste and inclination, as he had the opportunity of a constant recourse to a valuable library, filled with scarce and curious books on the subjects of natural history, which he so assiduouſly ſtudied. By degrees he became one of the moſt eminent ornithologiſts in this, or any other country. His merit is ſo well known in this reſpect, as to render any eulogium on his performances unneceſſary: but it may be obſerved, that he never truſted to others what he could perform himſelf; and often found it ſo difficult to give ſatisfaction to his own mind, that he frequently made three or four drawings to delineate the object in its moſt lively character, attitude, and representation.

In 1743 the firſt volume of the *Hiſtory of Birds* was publiſhed in Quarto, on royal paper, containing ſixty one birds, and two quadrupeds, moſt of which had neither been delineated nor deſcribed, engraved on fifty two plates from original drawings, exactly coloured, with full and accurate deſcriptions.

This volume is dedicated to the preſident and fellows of the royal college of *Physicians*, whoſe favours
and

assistance he most gratefully acknowledges. The description was published likewise in the *French* language, for the use of foreigners, as is that of the succeeding volumes.

His subscribers exceeding even his most sanguine expectation, a second volume appeared in 1747, dedicated to Sir HANS SLOANE, then physician to his Majesty, whose merit as a naturalist is well known, both in our own and foreign nations, and whose friendship to our author imprinted indelibly on his breast the warmest impressions of gratitude. This volume contains sixty one birds and two quadrupeds, engraved on fifty two copper plates, with descriptions.

The third volume published in 1750, contains the same number of plates, and fifty nine birds, dedicated to the president, council, and fellows of the Royal Society.

In 1751 the fourth volume came from the press, containing thirty seven plates, on which are engraved thirty nine birds, and sixteen plates of serpents, fishes, and insects.

This volume, being the last he intended to publish at that time, he seems to have considered it as the most perfect of his productions in Natural History; and therefore devoutly offered it up to the great God of Nature, in humble gratitude for all the good things he had received from him in this world.

Our author, in 1758, continued his labours under a new title, *viz.* GLEANINGS OF NATURAL HISTORY, exhibiting seventy different birds, fishes, insects, and plants, most of which were before non-descripts, coloured from nature, on fifty copper plates, dedicated to the trustees of the Brittish Museum. This volume was accompanied with a *French* translation upon the same page opposite the English---in the former volumes the descriptions in French were printed separate.

A second volume of the GLEANINGS was published in 1760, containing fifty plates and descriptions, as well as engravings of one hundred animals and plants. Our Naturalist dedicated this volume to the Earl of BUTE.

The third part, which made the seventh and last
volume

volume of his works, appeared in 1764, which he dedicated to Earl FERRERS, (then Captain SHIRLEY) as an acknowledgment for his kind assistance in contributing a great number of birds intended for Madam POMPADOUR, and taken by the Captain in a *French* Prize. This part contains eighty five different subjects, designed, engraved, and coloured after nature, on fifty two plates.

Thus our Author, after a long series of years, the most studious application, and the most extensive correspondence to every quarter of the world, concluded a work which contains, engravings and descriptions of more than six hundred subjects in Natural History, not before described or delineated. He likewise added a generical Index in *French* and *English*, which is now perfectly compleated with the *Linnaean* names, by that great Naturalist LINNÆUS himself, who frequently honoured him with his friendship and correspondence *.

Upon

* The following letter bears the strongest testimony of the high esteem the great Professor had for Mr. EDWARDS, as well as friendship for his own pupil the ingenious Dr. SOLANDER :

*Viro nobilissimo Domino G. EDWARDO, Ornithologo summo,
f. p. d. CAR. LINNÆUS, Eques.*

“ Has tibi, vir nobilissime, traditurus literas D. DAN. SOLANDER,
“ meus totus est; hic in animum induxit Angliam adire, ut in nature
“ cognitione

Upon finishing the work, we find the following declaration, or rather remarkable petition of the author,

“ cognitione proficiat apud nobilissimos Anglos, apud quos hæc scientia
 “ hodie unice floret. Imprimis vero tua autoritas eum allicuit, qui sum-
 “ mum suum habet oblectamentum in animalium historiâ. Est imbutus
 “ varia cognitione zoologica, sed ut verum fateor minus in ornithologicis
 “ versatus, quam in reliquis partibus: te itaque præceptorem colere avi-
 “ dissimus est. Fac pro tua in me amicitia quantum poteris, ut in his
 “ proficiat; ego spondeo eum esse et fore moribus honestissimis, anima
 “ candidissima gratissima et ingenio acutissimo; et nisi me omnia fallent,
 “ post nostra fata, aliquando summus historicus naturalis per Europam,
 “ modo D. T. O. ipsi vitam largiatur, pro ut ipsi dederit voluptatem gus-
 “ tandi has delicias. In nostra patria deficiunt naturæ gazæ; ipsa urbs
 “ Londinensis, sola scatet pluribus quam tota Europa. Si te benefactorem
 “ et Mæcenatem obtineat, facile ipsi ostendas pleraque eorum, quæ apud
 “ vostrates occurrunt. Plantas, et insecta, et conchilia plura novit; ideam
 “ scientiæ hausit; mentis acumine pollet, ut aptus sit discipulus. Si a-
 “ liquando quis vestratum ad me perveniat, omnia ipsi tua commendatione
 “ præstabo, quæ huic præstas: scias enim omnia officia quæ in hunc con-
 “ feras, in me collata esse et tamque in filium proprium. Misissimè lu-
 “ bentissime cum eo aliquot exuvias avium, sed profectus equo nequit
 “ ulla ratione salvas secum ducere. Qui te videre nequeo quotidie
 “ imaginem tuam in pariete suspensam intueor gratissima mente, quod
 “ tam pulchras naturæ gazas oculis mortalium exposuisti primus et facilè
 “ unicus. Nullus certe adhuc præstitit quod tu in pulcherrimis omnium
 “ avibus; nullus facile præstabit in posterum simile opus; lætor quod hæc
 “ potui propriis intueri oculis.—Servet te Deus in ornamentum artis.

Dabam Upsaliæ, 1759, c. 12 Aprilis.

“ Quæso commendes meum SOLANDRUM apud D. D. RUSSEL, cui
 “ devotissima mea dicas.—Utinam etiam posses eum commendare apud
 “ præfectos musei SLOANEI, ut videret Paradisum illud terrestre.”

In

author, where he seems afraid that his passions for his favourite subject of Natural History, should get the better of nobler pursuits, viz. the contemplation of his Maker.

“ My petition to God (if petitions to God are not
 “ presumptuous) is, that he would remove from me
 “ all desire of pursuing Natural History, or any o-
 “ ther study; and inspire me with as much know-
 “ ledge of his divine nature as my imperfect state is
 “ capable of; that I may conduct myself, for the
 “ remainder of my days, in a manner most agree-
 “ able to his will, which must consequently be most
 “ happy to myself. What my condition may be in
 “ futurity is known only to the wise disposer of all
 “ things; yet my present desires are (perhaps vain

E

“ and

In a subsequent letter is the following remarkable passage :

Amico Sincero Do. EDUARDO.

f. p. d. CAR. LINNÆUS.

—“ Gratulor tibi de tot pulchris, tamque infinitis avibus rarissimis, quot
 “ nullus umquam detexit nec umquam detegat, minus umquam tam vivēde
 “ delineabit, in quibus nil deficit nisi cantus: hæ tamen decantabunt no-
 “ men, famamque tuam, tamdiu aves existant, et cum iis homines. Tu
 “ per has seculi nostri ornamentum immortale evasisti. Vive diu felix, et
 “ me inter sinceros tuos cultores, numera. Saluta amicos meos omnes ac
 “ singulos honestissimos Anglos naturæ cultores.”

Upsaliæ, 1764, d. 13 April.

“ and inconsistent with the nature of things!) that I
 “ may become an intelligent spirit, void of gross
 “ matter, gravity and levity, endowed with a vo-
 “ luntary motive power, either to pierce infinitely
 “ into boundless etherial space, or into solid bodies;
 “ to see and know, how the parts of the great Uni-
 “ verse are connected with each other, and by what
 “ amazing mechanism they are put and kept in re-
 “ gular, and perpetual motion. But, oh vain and
 “ daring presumption of thought! I most humbly
 “ submit my future existence to the supreme will of
 “ the one omnipotent!”

He communicated some papers upon natural histo-
 ry to the Philosophical Transactions, and other pe-
 riodical publications. And in the prefaces and in-
 troductions to many of his volumes, are contained
 some curious and ingenious essays on different sub-
 jects of natural history, and other miscellaneous sub-
 jects; likewise a brief and general idea of drawing
 and painting in water colours, with instructions for
 etching on copper plates, and reflexions on the pas-
 sage of birds. Which essays, &c. since the comple-
 tion of his works, have been selected and published
 in one volume octavo.

Some

Some time after Mr. EDWARDS had been appointed library keeper to the Royal College of Physicians, he was, on *St. Andrews* day in the year 1750, presented with an honorary compliment by the president and council of the Royal Society, with the gold medal, the donation of Sir GODFREY COPLEY, Bart. annually given on that day to the author of any new discovery in art or nature, in consideration of his *Natural History* just then compleated. A copy of this medal he had afterwards engraved and placed under the general title in the first volume of his *History* *. He was a few years afterwards elected Fellow of the Royal Society, and of the Society of Antiquaries *London*, and also a member of many of the academies of sciences and learning in different parts of *Europe*. In compliment to these honorary distinctions from such learned bodies, he presented elegant coloured copies of all his works, to the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquarians, and to the British Museum; also to the Royal Accademy of Sciences at *Paris*, from whom he received the most polite and obliging letter of thanks by their then secretary Monsieur DEFOUCHY.

The

* A Description of this Medal is given behind the title in the first volume of his works.

The nobility and gentry frequently honoured him with their friendship and generous support ; and he mentions with peculiar pleasure being patronised by four great men, who were perhaps the greatest promoters of learning, science and arts, of any in the present age. These were the late Duke of RICHMOND, Sir HANS SLOANE, Dr. MEAD, and MARTIN FOLKES, Esq; *

His

* The following characters of these four eminent personages is given in his own words :

“ The DUKE, noble in his lineage, and descent from the royal house of these kingdoms ; but still more noble and great from the innate magnificence, generosity, and goodness of his soul. Though by his high offices, his time was taken up by the important affairs of the public, yet his doors were always open to men of learning, science, and ingenuity.”

“ The second was the good Sir HANS SLOANE, Bart. who employed me, for a great number of years, in drawing miniature figures of animals, &c. after nature, in water colours, to encrease his very great collection of fine drawings by other hands ; which drawings are now all fixed in the British Museum, for the help and information of those in future generations, that may be curious or studious in natural history. Sir HANS, in the decline of his life, left *London*, and retired to his manor house at *Chelfea*, where he resided about fourteen years before he died. After his retirement to *Chelfea*, he requested it as a favour to him, (though I embraced his request as an honour done to myself) that I would visit him every week, in order to divert him, for an hour or two, with the common news of the town, and with any thing particular that should happen amongst his acquaintance of the Royal Society, and other
“ ingenious

His collection of drawings, which amounted to upwards of nine hundred, were purchased by the Earl of

“ ingenious gentlemen, many of whom I was weekly conversant with;
 “ and I seldom missed drinking coffee with him on a *Saturday*, during the
 “ whole time of his retirement at *Chelsea*. He was so infirm as to be
 “ wholly confined to his house, except sometimes, though rarely, taking
 “ a little air in his garden in a wheeled chair: and this confinement made
 “ him very desirous to see any of his old acquaintance to amuse him. During
 “ this latter part of his life, he was frequently petitioned for charity
 “ by some decayed branches of families of eminent men, late of his acquaintance,
 “ who were famous for their learned works, &c. which petitions he always received,
 “ and considered with attention; and, provided they were not found fraudulent,
 “ they were always answered by his charitable donations. He has often desired that
 “ I would enquire into the merits of such petitioners; and, if found satisfactory,
 “ he commissioned me to convey his bounty to the distressed.—The last time I saw him,
 “ I was greatly surprised and concerned to find so good a man in the agonies
 “ of death; this was on the tenth day of January 1753, at four o’clock
 “ in the afternoon: he died on the eleventh, at four in the morning. I
 “ continued with him later than any one of his relations, but was obliged
 “ to retire, his last agonies being beyond what I could bear; though, under
 “ his pain and weakness of body, he seemed to retain a great firmness
 “ of mind, and resignation to the will of God.

“ The third of my patrons was the great RICHARD MEAD, M. D.
 “ He was certainly magnanimous beyond the common measure, and deserved
 “ the title of Great in as extensive a sense as any man in his station
 “ could do. He, as well as Sir HANS SLOANE, died in the highest stations
 “ of physic they could arrive at, viz. Physicians in Ordinary to the
 “ King. Dr. MEAD, indeed, never was at the head of the College of
 “ Physicians of *London*, but it was because he always absolutely declined it;
 “ for he hath been elected into that honourable station, but never
 F “ could

of BUTE, who would confer a favour on posterity by publishing engravings from them, as they contain a great

“ could be persuaded to accept of it. His personal service, his ample fortune, his house, and every thing in his power, always contributed, in the most extensive manner, to the promotion of learning, science, arts, mechanics, and, in short, every thing that tended to the public benefit and honour of his country, or was of use to particular members of the community he lived in. In short, his generosity was so diffusive, that he may be justly deemed a benefactor to the whole community; whilst, instead of hoarding up that great wealth his practice gained, to raise a vast estate, as he might easily have done, his public spirit was unconfin'd, and he was contented to leave behind him a moderate fortune only. The worthy Dr. ASKEW, from a laudable veneration for the memory and public character of so great a patron of learning, &c. caused a fine marble bust of him to be made by one of the most eminent sculptors of the present age, which is placed in the College of Physicians, London. And, on this occasion, I cannot help informing succeeding generations, that they may see the real features of Dr. MEAD in this said bust; for I, who was as well acquainted with his face as any one living, do pronounce this bust of him to be so like, that, as often as I see it, my mind is filled with the strongest idea of the original.

“ MARTIN FOLKES, Esq; the last of my deceased principal patrons, was a friend and intimate acquaintance of the other three. He had made the grand tour of *Europe*, not in the younger part of life, but after his marriage. He travelled with part of his family and servants, at a proper age to make just observations, and gather all the commendable parts of the learning, customs, and manners of the countries through which he passed, in order to refine and polish those of his own. He travelled not in haste, as is the general custom; but proceeded slowly, and spent what time was necessary to inform himself of all that was
“ worth

great number of English as well as foreign birds and other animals hitherto not accurately delineated or described.

After

“ worth notice : and, indeed, he seemed to have attained to universal
 “ knowledge ; for, in the many opportunities I have had of being in his
 “ company, almost every part of science has happened to be the subject
 “ of discourse, all of which he handled as an adept in each. He was a
 “ man of great politeness in his manners, free from all pedantry and pride,
 “ and, in every respect, the real unaffected fine gentleman.

“ The loss of four personages, so truly noble, so good, so great, and every
 “ way so highly accomplished, in the small space of three or four years,
 “ was an event that greatly humbled me. I imagined, that, after such
 “ a loss to arts and sciences in general, and to myself in particular, all
 “ endeavours to excel in any branch of knowledge would be fruitless, and
 “ of little avail to its author, for want of eminent men to inspire the
 “ rising generation ; and I thought of discontinuing any farther progress
 “ in natural history : but the national spirit for the promotion of learning
 “ and arts, in the establishment of that grand repository and immense fund
 “ of science, the British Museum, has, in some measure, revived the passion
 “ for learning and useful knowledge ; and I hope these seeds, sown by
 “ public authority, cherished and protected by a PRINCE distinguished for
 “ virtue and learning, will take root, spring up, and yield a plentiful har-
 “ vest.

“ The British Museum reminds me of a brief catalogue of the natural
 “ and artificial subjects contained in it, which Sir HANS SLOANE shewed
 “ me about a year before he died, and permitted me to take a copy of ;
 “ and, as I believe, though it is so very general, it may, for want of a
 “ more perfect one, be acceptable to the reader, and is as follows :

An

After the publication of the last work, being arrived at his seventieth year, he found his fight begin

An account of the names and numbers of the several species of things contained in the Museum of Sir HANS SLOANE, Bart. and which, since his death, are placed for the use of the public in the British Museum.

The library, including	Echini, echinites, &c.	659
books of drawings,	Asteriæ, trochi, entrochi, &c.	241
manuscripts, & prints,	Crustaceæ, crabs, lobsters, &c.	363
amounting to about vol. 50000	Stellæ marinæ, star-fishes, &c.	173
Medals and coins, ancient and	Fishes, and their parts	1555
modern 23000	Birds, and their parts, eggs and	
Cameos and intaglios. about 700	nefts of different species	1172
Seals, &c. 268	Quadrupeds, &c.	1886
Vessels, &c. of agate, jasper, &c. 542	Vipers, serpents, &c.	521
Antiquities 1125	Insects, &c. - -	5439
Precious stones, agates, jaspers,	Vegetables -	12506
&c. 2256	Hortus ficcus, or volumes of	
Metals, minerals, ores, &c. 2725	dried plants	334
Crystals, spars, &c. 1864	Humana, as calculi, anatomical	
Fossils, flints, stones, &c. 1275	preparations, &c.	756
Earths, sands, salts, &c. 1035	Miscellaneous things, natural,	
Bitumens, sulphurs, ambers, &c. 399	&c.	2098
Talcs, micæ, &c. 388	Mathematical instruments	55
Corals, sponges, &c. 1421	Pictures and drawings framed	471
Testacea, or shells, &c. 5843		

“ Every single particular of all the above articles are numbered, and
 “ entered by name, with short accounts of them, and references to several authors who have heretofore wrote about them, in thirty-eight volumes

gin to fail, and his hand lost its wonted steadiness. He retired from public employment, to a little house which he purchased at *Plaiſtow*; previous to which, he disposed of all the copies, as well as plates, of his works. †* The conversation of a few select friends,

“ lumes in folio, and eight in quarto. Some addition has been made to
 “ this valuable collection since it was deposited in Montague-house, espe-
 “ cially to the fossils, by a valuable present from GUSTAVUS BRANDER,
 “ Esq;

Besides the above catalogue of natural productions, his library consisted of more than 50,000 vols. 350 of which with plates drawn and coloured after nature—3566 Manuscripts in various languages.

†*

College of Physicians, Warwick-Lane, May 1st, 1769.

To the Nobility, Gentry, and Curious in general.

Having this day sold and delivered to Mr. JAMES ROBSON, Bookseller, in New Bond Street, all the remaining copies of my Natural History, in seven volumes quarto, coloured under my own immediate inspection, together with all my copper-plates, letter-press, and every article in my possession relative to it. I have thought it a duty incumbent upon me, in justice to the public, as well as to the purchaser, to declare, that all future publications of the said Natural History are the sole right and property of Mr. ROBSON: and that my labours may be handed down to posterity, with integrity, truth, and exactness, I have delivered into his hands a complete set of the plates, highly coloured by myself, as a standard to those Artists who may be employed in colouring them for the future.

G

At

friends, and the perusal of a few select books, were the amusement of the evening of his life; and now and then he made an excursion to some of the principal cities in *England*. *

During his recess, he delineated some scarce animals, particularly the *Siyah Ghush*, † or black ear; an engraving

As the remainder of my life will be spent chiefly in retirement, I beg leave to return my most grateful acknowledgments to the nobility, gentry, and public in general, for all their favours and generous support during the tedious Period of all my publications; and I am, with the greatest truth and respect,

their faithful, and obliged humble servant,

G E O R G E E D W A R D S.

* Particularly to *Bristol, Bath, Exeter, and Norwich*.

† A species of Cat with a long face and small head, long black ears, very hairy, nose reddish, body reddish brown, tail long, belly and breast inclined to white.

Dr. SHAW, p. 175 of his travels, says the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish names of this animal signify the *black ear'd Cat*. In the night, *when all the beasts of the forest do move*, these as well as other wild quadrupeds are prowling after sustenance; and *when the sun ariseth, and the Lion getteth away to his den*, both the black Cat and the Jackall have often been found gnawing such carcases as the Lion is supposed to have fed upon the night before. It is a native of *Persia, India, and Barbary*, and may be rendered tame and useful in the Chace. Dr. CHARLETON mentions that one killed

engraving of which from his drawing, may be found in Dr. SHARP's edition of the *Syntagma Dissertationum* of Dr. THOMAS HYDE.

He also made a drawing and engraving of the *Argus* or *Luen*, one of the larger species of pheasant, a native of the north of *China*, from a preserved bird transmitted to Dr. FOTHERGILL. The copper-plate designed for the philosophical transactions was unfortunately lost; but an impression, coloured by the author, is now in the hands of the present proprietor of his works. He made drawings during his retirement at *Plaiſtow* of the *Kestrel*, a species of hawk found in hollow trees, and ruined buildings in *England*, which the reader will find described in the *British Zoology*, by the ingenious Mr. PENNANT, with whom our author had a long uninterrupted friendship and correspondence:

led a hound and tore it to pieces in a moment, notwithstanding the dog made a vigorous defence.

Arabian writers call it *Anak el Ard*: inform us it hunts like the Panther and pursues Cranes in their flight.

dence: and of the Snake killer* of the Indies, from the living bird belonging to Captain RAYMOND, at *Valentines in Essex*, and which he gave a description of in the above mentioned collection of the Royal Society.

He left an edition of WILLOUGHBY's Ornithology with MS. notes, and many curious observations. In these notes he corrected the mistakes and supplied the omissions of former writers. They are soon intended to be given to the public who has so generously encouraged his former labors.

He

* The *Dutch* call it *Slang eater* from the avidity with which it devours Snakes; three birds of this species were brought to this kingdom from the Cape of Good Hope. One of them measured three feet from the extremities to the crown of the head; the eye is bright and piercing, surrounded with yellow, which in the fore part extends to the bill: the feathers of the thigh, the point of the wings, and the extremity of the tail, are black, the rest white or light grey; the feathers which extend from the head and neck, are no small ornament to the bird.

The natives of the southern promontory of *Africa*, say that in the inland parts of that continent, this singular bird is held in high veneration. Some assert it is the Ibis of the antients; but perhaps that opinion has little to confirm it. Josephus relates on no very authentic grounds, that Moses preserved his army from a multitude of destroying serpents by means of the Iris, of which he collected numbers in his travels. Captain PURVIS introduced the Snake eater into *England*, in one of the India Company's Ships in 1759.

Some time before his death, he disposed of a curious copy of *Catesby's Carolina*, to Mr BARTLET of *Lamb's-Conduit-Street* ; the plates were highly coloured by himself, and he frequently expressed his opinion, that they were equal to the author's original work.

Mr. EDWARDS was of a middle stature, rather inclined to corpulence : of a liberal disposition and a chearful conversation. All his acquaintance experienced his benevolent temper, and his poor neighbours frequently partook of his bounty.

His diffidence and humility were always apparent, and to persons who had a taste for studies congenial to his own, he was a most entertaining as well as communicative companion.

Some years before his death the alarming depredations of a cancer, which baffled all the efforts of physical skill, deprived him of the sight of one of his eyes : he also suffered much from the stone, a complaint to which at different periods of life he had been subject. Yet it has been remarked, that in the severest paroxysms of misery he was scarcely known to utter a single complaint.

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Having

Having compleated his eightieth year, emaciated with age and sickness, he died on the 23d of *July* 1773, deservedly lamented by a numerous acquaintance. He left two sisters, to whom he bequeathed the fortune acquired by assiduous application to his favourite pursuits ; they died lately within a few hours of each other, and were buried together.

His remains were interred in the Church yard of *Westham* his native parish, where his executors have erected a stone, with a plain inscription to perpetuate to posterity, his skill as an artist, and his knowledge as a zoologist.

E P I T A P H.

Here lies interred,
 The Body of GEO. EDWARDS, Esq; F. R. S.
 Who departed this Life the 23d Day of *July* 1773,
 Aged 81 Years ;
 Formerly LIBRARIAN
 To the ROYAL COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS
 In which Capacity,
 As well as in private Life,
 He was universally
 And deservedly esteemed.
 His NATURAL HISTORY of BIRDS
 Will remain
 A lasting MONUMENT of his knowledge
 And ingenuity.

A D D E N D A

Since the foregoing Sheets were printed off, many Friends and Subscribers to the late Mr. EDWARDS, have expressed a desire to have the Papers which he communicated to the Royal Society, selected from the Philosophical Transactions, and printed together to complete his Natural History. The Editor wishing to pay every attention to a request from such respectable authority, has accordingly given what he could find worthy of notice, from that periodical work: and, in order to render these extracts still more acceptable to the Public, he has re-engraved the Plates of all the Subjects therein described, and they now accompany the publication.

NARROW BEAK'D CROCODILE.

THE NARROW BEAK'D CROCODILE of the *Ganges*, with an open belly, delineated on the plate from our author's drawing, is the *Lacerta* (*Crocodilus*) *ventre marsupio donato faucibus Merganseris rostrum æmulantibus*. Three of these Crocodiles were sent from *Bengal* about the year 1747, to the late Dr. MEAD, Physician in ordinary to the King; two of which he preserved in his collection, and presented the third to the late curious Mrs. KENNON; and since the decease of these worthy persons, they became the property of Mr. JAMES LEMON of *London*, who obliged Mr. EDWARDS with one of them to produce to the Royal Society. The narrowness of the beaks is the most extraordinary circumstance in this crocodile, which appears like the bill of the bird called *Gooseander* (*Merganser*). It has small sharp teeth. Another peculiarity is a paunch, or open purse, in the middle of the underside of the belly, which seems to be naturally formed with round hips, and a hollow within, perhaps to receive its young in the time of danger; as it appears in the American animal, called an *Opossum*: Dr. PARSONS gave it as his opinion, that the opening in the belly was really natural, it having no appearance of being cut or torn open. In other respects, it hath all the marks common to *Allegators* and *Crocodiles*, viz. particular strong, square scales on the back, which in the young ones appear distinct and regular, but in the old ones lose their distinct form, and become knobbed and rough, like the bark of an old tree, and in having small round and oval scales on the sides, which in the young ones are no bigger than rape seeds, and the belly is scaled to appearance a little like the laying of bricks in a building. It has fins on the outides of its fore and hinder legs, as other *Crocodiles* have. It has also a great distinguishing mark of the *Crocodile* kind, viz. two rows of fins on the upper side of the tail, which begin insensibly small on the setting on of the tail, and increase gradually as they advance towards the middle of the tail, where they be-

come

*The narrow Beak'd Crocodile of the
Ganges, with an Open-belly.*

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come one row, and so they continue to the end: the tail is roundish at the beginning, but from the middle, where the two rows of fins become one, it is flat like an oar. The fore-feet have each of them five toes; the hinder feet have only four, which is also a mark of the *Crocodile*; all the lesser lizards, which have fallen under our Author's observation, having five toes on each of their hinder feet. In the fore and hinder feet the third and fourth toes only are webbed together: The eyes are very prominent, and seem to be contrived that they may be carried above the water while the rest of the animal is wholly under water, in order to watch its prey on the surface, or on the banks and shores of rivers. The head is covered; the beak finely creased transversely; the animal appeared in the spirits all over of a yellowish olive colour, the under side lighter than the upper, the upper side having some dusky marks and spots, as represented in the same. This species appears to be non-descript; which seems the more singular, as our *India* Company have been so long settled at *Bengal*, and the animal is at full growth nearly, if not altogether, as large as the common *Crocodile*.

The FROG FISH of SURINAM.

THE FROG FISH is an animal whose singularity claims our attention. It is not to be met with in the British Museum, or in any private English collection, except that of Dr. *Fothergill*. It was brought from Surinam in South America.

In the Appendix to *Merian's* Natural History of the insects of that country, where she treats of the transformation of fishes into frogs, and frogs into fishes, after explaining the manner in which the European frog is changed from a diminutive fish or tadpole into a perfect frog, she proceeds to describe the gradual transformation of a species of Frog found in these parts into a perfect fish, and illustrates her description by five figures, from the collection of *Albert Seba* at Amsterdam, to whom she was likewise indebted for several curious hints on this subject.

Linneus calls this animal *paradoxa* in his *Systema Naturæ*, p. 212, and quotes the former Edition of that work where it is called *lacerta cauda ancipiti, palmis tetradactylus fissis, plantis pentadactylis palmatis abdomine ventricoso*.

Merian's figures are slightly copied in the annexed plate: she tells us the first figure shews the perfect frog, brown, yellow, and green, in spots, but paler on the belly; the hinder feet webbed like the goose, the fore feet without webs: in size like the full grown European frog. Her second figure represents the first transformation by the appearance of a tail; afterwards it gradually assumes the shape of a fish, the two fore feet decreasing and perishing by degrees, as is shewn *fig. 3.* the decrease of the hinder legs is exhibited *fig. 4.* and lastly, the animal is changed to a fish, *fig. 5.*

Both natives and Europeans in that country called these fishes *jakjés*. They are cartilaginous, of a substance like our *mustela*, and exquisite food; they are formed with regular vertebræ, and small bones all over the body, divided into equal parts; are first darkish and then grey; their scales make a beautiful appearance.

Frogs,

The Roostfish of Surinam, Drawn from Nature of the size of life.

Frogs, both in Asia and Africa, according to *Merian*, change gradually from fishes to frogs as those in Europe, but after many years revert again into fishes, tho' the manner of their change has never been investigated.

The subject engraven on the plate is of the size of life (F G) and greatly exceeds that figured by *Merian* in her history, p. 71. which leads one to suppose that it is a different species. Her figure expresses the fin which passes round the tail scolloped, but in the animal here drawn the fin is perfectly even; the hinder feet in the engraving by that Lady, have only four toes each; but this has five, besides a small substance like a toe. The figures (A B C D) are tadpoles received at the same time in their different changes from frogs, different from European, and perhaps the same described by *Merian* and *Seba*.

The little tadpoles on the plate (A B C D) are specifically different from the large ones (F G) as is obvious by the difference of their feet: the hinder feet of one of the small ones is magnified at E, which shews that the ends of their toes are round and flat on their under sides, both in the hinder and fore feet: forward they have four toes on each foot unwebbed; the hinder feet have four toes each, webbed altogether.

Whether this animal is, in its perfect state, a species of frog with a tail, or a kind of water lizard, requires a greater degree of sagacity to determine than our Author pretended to: but when its size is considered, if it should be deemed a tadpole at first produced from spawn, and in its progress towards a frog, such an animal when full grown, if it bears the same proportion to its tadpole as those in Europe do, must be of enormous size, for our full grown frogs exceed the tadpoles at least fifty times.

The

The ARGUS, or LUEN PHEASANT.

THE ARGUS is a species of the Pheasant, the largest of that genus yet known, being equal in size to a full grown Turkey Cock, from one of the most northern provinces of China.

I take it to be a male bird, by the beautiful red skin on the fore part of the head, and its fine blue changeable crest and neck; the females of all the different species of pheasants yet discovered, having little or no gaudy colours about their heads.

The back is like that of our pheasant, of a yellowish white colour; the fore part of the head and beginning of the throat, are covered with a fine scarlet skin, seemingly void of feathers, but is rough with a kind of grain. The irides of the eyes are orange, coloured more yellow next the pupil, and redder in their outer circumference: the skin round the eye is dusky or black; it hath also blackish marks proceeding from the corners of the mouth; the top and hinder part of the head and neck, are of a fine blue changeable colour; it has a crest of long loose feathers, which I suppose it can raise, or lower at pleasure. The lower part of the neck, the back, and covert feathers of the wings, are covered with black or dusky feathers, having a small broken transverse mixture of redish brown. The wings when closed, measure about seventeen inches; though the prime quill falls short of the length of those above them. The wing hath about twenty quills, the outermost shortest, which gradually lengthens to the fifth; the nine outermost quills, are of a lightish yellow brown, spotted with dusky spots, of the size of tares, except on their inner webs next the shafts, where they are of a dusky brown, with white spots as small as mustard seeds; the shafts of these feathers are a lead colour; the eleven remaining quills which characterise this bird, are of a darker brown than the foregoing, marked with round and longish dusky spots on both the inner and the outer webs—What is most extraordinary in these feathers is that each of them has on the outer web,

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web, close adjoining to the shaft, a row of very distinct spots like eyes, so shaded as to appear imboss: they are larger and smaller as the feathers to the outer quills; they are from twelve to fifteen on each feather; the largest eyes are an inch diameter; they are incircled first with black, and without that with light brown, their shafts are white; the eyes, in the two or three innermost quills, are not so regularly marked, they lose their roundness and become confused. These beautiful eyes are not seen unless the wings are a little spread: the single feathers, of half the natural length, figured in the plate, will give an idea of the eyes and spots beyond description. The inner coverts of the wings are brown with black spots; the under sides of the quills are marked like the upper, but fainter coloured; the inner webs edged with light ash colour, which forms a whitish bed within side the wing. The throat, breast, rump, and covert feathers, on the upper side the tail, are of a dull orange colour, with round dusky spots; the tail hath fourteen feathers of very unequal lengths, the middlemost of each of them three feet long; the next on each side eighteen inches, which gradually shorten to the outermost on each side, which are twelve inches; their colour is dusky, with a tincture of light brown: the outer feathers are dotted with white as small as mustard seeds; the next within these have larger spots, less regularly formed; the two long middle feathers have round white spots, surrounded with black on their outer webs, and larger irregular brown spots, surrounded with a dusky colour on their inner webs, which are ash coloured. The lower belly and covered feathers beneath the tail, are dusky with confused mixture of brown. The legs and feet are like those of Turkeys, with three toes forward and one backward; the legs, feet, and claws are of a greenish ash colour. The head and legs of this bird were supplied from the curious drawing that was sent from Canton, with the bird's skin, to Dr. *Fothergill*, which had neither head nor feet adhering to it.

A wing of this bird, in good preservation, may be seen in Mr. LEVER's *Curious Museum* at Leicester House.

The SNAKE EATER.

THIS Bird is of a new genus, and the only one species of it hitherto come to my knowledge ; it is about the bigness of a heron and crane kind, except the neck is a little shorter. On first sight I thought the bird belonged to that genus ; but on a closer view, I judged it to be no wader in the water ; for though the legs are as long, or longer than in herons, &c. yet they are feathered down to the knees, which we do not find in birds who wade in shallow waters to seek their food. The toes of this bird are also much shorter than they are in herons ; so that I think it must be placed amongst land birds. The bill is exactly like those of hawks, and other birds of prey ; which is the only instance I have discovered in any of the long legged kind of birds. The talons or claws are small, and unfit for a bird of prey ; and the eyes are of a dark colour, placed in spaces covered with a bare skin of an orange colour, on each side of the head. It hath a beautiful crest, composed of many long painted feathers, tipped with black, hanging backwards. The beak, head, neck, back, breast, and upper covert feathers of the wings, are of a bluish ash colour, rather lighter on the breast than on the back. The belly, thighs, the greater wing feathers and tail are black, the tail feathers being tipped with white : the legs and feet are of a reddish flesh colour, and the claws black.

This bird was called a *Snake Eater* by those who brought it over from India ; and I believe it may prey upon small serpents, lizards, and other reptiles. Another bird was brought with this, supposed to be the male, which died soon after it landed ; it was something larger, and the crest longer, the head black, but in other respects the birds were alike.

Mr. *Vosmaer*, keeper of the Statholder's museum at the Hague, calls it the *Sagittarius* from the Cape of Good Hope : and in one of his publications at Amsterdam, in the year 1769, has given a print of it, coloured after nature. It seems to feed equally on flesh or fish, which accounts for his uniting the character of birds of prey, and of waders in water.

SIYAH

THE SNAKE EATER.

J. Lodge Sculp.

SIYAH GHUSHI.

THE SNAKE EATER.

SIYAH GHUSH.

To Dr. SHAW's Account of this Animal (vid. Note p. 22.) we shall give Dr. HYDE's Account of it in his Syntagma Dissertationum, tom. 1. p. 36. where it is figured by Mr. EDWARDS, from a Drawing of the late Dr. GREGORY SHARPE, Master of the Temple.

A *Nák al Ard* est animal illud quod in Perside vocatur *Siyáb Ghúsh*: in Perside canem magnitudinem excedit; aures ejus sunt nigræ, & proprius color est rufus. In libro *Mu'gijzat Phârsi* (est sc. historia naturalis Persicæ cum iconibus) exhibetur hujus animalis icon, quæ, si pictoris fides satis exactè leporem refert; nisi quod moles sit undique major, corpus crassius, & cauda ac pedes ad proportionem longiores. Et in eodem libero sequens descriptio extat.—*Anák* Persicé dicunt *Siyáb Ghúsh*, est que animal pulcherrimum cane majus: Aures ejus sunt nigræ, et color ejus est coloris cameli pilis subrufis: Venari solet eodem modo ac pardus; et quando incedit, efficit ut vestigia pedum suorum dispareant. Solet venari grues, quas, quando avolare conantur, in aerem foliando captat. Animal istud Persicé, etiam alio nomine vocatur *Perváneke*, unde Arabicum *Phuráneke*. Insigni sagacitate præditum est, & instinctu quodam naturæ prædam leoni præsentit; & suo latratu, vel alio modo leoni, si quis sit in vicinâ renunciat. Cumque leo saturatus, discedit, famulus iste ex reliquiis prædæ convivari solet: nunquam veró leoni accedit, ne fortassis ipsius præda tandem fiat.

ADDENDA

ADDENDA to the Account of the SERVICE TREE, plate 211.

SORBUS DOMESTICA. *Linnaei species plant.*

Sorbus Baubin, *hist.* I. 59.—*Gerard. Emend.* 1471.—*Raii, hist. plant.* 1456.
—*Sativa Baub.* *pin.* 415.—*Sorbus legitima*, *Clus. hist.* I. p. 10.—*Parkinson*
1420.—*A. Gouan Flora Monspeliaca*, 253.—*Sorbus foliis pennatis subtus to-*
mentosis. *Hall. Helv.* 351.—*Du Hamel traité des arbres & arbrustes qui se*
cultivent en plein terre, tom. 2. p. 271.—*Hudsoni Flora Anglica*, p. 188.

The True SERVICE or SORB.——*La CORME ou SORBE.*

THIS tree is most common in Italy and Germany, but is found likewise in several parts of France. It grows spontaneously in some places in this island, particularly in the mountainous parts of Cornwall, as well as the moorlands of Staffordshire,* and sometimes is cultivated in gardens in the neighbourhood of London. Its singular beauty may recommend it to the notice of landed gentlemen, who often ornament their grounds with foreign plants, and exclude at the same time indigenous shrubs equally beautiful as well as useful. Frost does not seem to injure it; the severe winter of 1709, which destroyed such multitudes of plants on the Continent, is said to have spared the Sorbus. Our Author, in the description of plate 211. (*Gleanings*, P. I. p. 1.) supposes this tree unknown to botanists. His favourite study appears to have wholly engrossed his attention, that he seldom perused their writings, or was acquainted himself with their discoveries; for long before Mr. Edwards published his Natural History, a certain magistrate of Worcester† addressed

* Amat loca humida, montana & frigidis proxima, & solum pinguiſſimum. *Raii hist. plant.* 1456.

† Edward Pitt, Esq; alderman of that city. See *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 139. p. 178.

addressed a letter to the Royal Society on this subject. Even our indefatigable countryman Mr. Ray, when he published his history of plants, appears to have been ignorant that the *Sorbus* was ever found wild in this island, * tho' some years after the publication of that work he altered his opinion, it having been discovered by *Walter Moyle*, Esq; in Cornwall. The error is retracted in the last edition of his *Synopsis*. **

The beautiful appearance of the fruit is well known, and it is served up at tables in France as one of the ornaments of the dessert, and is said to have an agreeable taste, somewhat similar to the Medlar. Its astringent property has given it a place in the *materia medica*; † but amid a variety of foreign medicines, it appears now a mere expletive. Cyder is extracted from the fruit on the Continent, and the beverage with which it furnishes the inhabitants, is stronger than that obtained from the Apple. ‡

The extreme hardness of the wood renders it of singular utility to several artificers: turners have long been acquainted with its great use and durability; mill-wrights find it of considerable advantage in sundry parts of their business. ¶

We are informed, that *M. de Buffon* § has for some years past cultivated the *Sorbus* with great care at his plantations in Burgundy. Quadrupeds, as well as birds, are particularly fond of the fruit.

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In

* *In Anglia sponte non provenit*, are his words. *Hist. Plant.* p. 1456.

** Page 452.

† It is of great service in hæmorrhages.—See Ray.

‡ On peut faire avec le suc des forbes ou des Cormes. insulées dans l'eau une assez bonne boisson; si l'on a cependant assez de ces fruits pour se passer du secours de l'eau, on en obtient un cidre plus fort que celui des Pommes. *Du Hamel.* tom. 2. p. 274.

¶ Some of his coadjutors in Natural History assert, that in those grounds are trees at least one foot in circumference, and twenty five in height. They bear removal well.

§ Le bois est sur tout excellent pour les parties de machines exposées à de grands frottemens, telles que des pièces de pressoir, des outils de menuiserie, des chevilles de moulins, &c.—*Bomare*.

In the *Memoir. du Suede*, vol. 15. 1753, the use of this wood in mechanics is fully demonstrated, and greatly recommended. We shall conclude this short account with referring the reader for more particulars on the subject, to that valuable miscellany.

ADDENDA to the Account of the COMMON SERVICE TREE,
Plate 212.

CRATÆGUS TORMINALIS.

Cratægus foliis cordatis spectangulis lobis infimis divaricatis. Linnæi, sp. pl. 476.
—*Cratægis foliis cordatis acutis: lacinulis acutis serratis. Hort. Cliff. 187.*—*Roy, Ludb. 271.*—*Mespilis apii folio sylvestris non spinosa seu Sorbus torminalis. Baubin. pinax 454. Raii synopsis 453.*—*Sorbus torminalis. Com. Epit. 162. Ger. Em. 1471. seu vulgaris.*—*Parkinson. 1420.*—*Plantæ Woodfordienfes, p. 99.*—*Martyni Plantæ Cantabrigienfis, 11.*

COMMON WILD SERVICE or SORB.

LINNÆUS informs us this tree grows in England, Germany, Helvetia, and Burgundy. It is found wild in hedges and woods, and merits a place in plantations for the beauty of its foliage, as well as its flower and fruit. At Bishop's Wood, near *Hampstead*, there may be seen several trees of this species. It is said the Common Service will rise to the height of thirty or forty feet.

The word is used by several Artificers as well as that of the true Service. The Tree will bear the inclemencies of our English winters better than most others propagated in this Country, and flourishes best in a strong soil.

E R R A T A.

Page 45. title *Siyâh Ghûsh*, dele from a *Drawing of Dr. Sharp, &c.*
In the Catalogue of LINNÆUS, Page 10, the reader is desired, after the words, *Hand of a Eey with a distempered skin*, to add ——— *with a branch of the Common Service Tree.*

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