

more immediate objects. He finds his pleasure in the contemplation of their novel forms, in the examination of those characters which distinguish them as species, in the quest of their mutual affinities, their relations and analogies with other beings, the order in which Creative Wisdom may seem to have called them into existence, their habits, economy and uses;—and in all these things he is ever watchful to find a “moral compliment” that the pursuit to which his taste and constitution of mind has led him may be neither uninfluential nor virtueless on his heart.

The plates and wood-cuts which illustrate the volume are, with few exceptions, original,—engraved from drawings made for it by Mrs Johnston, who is herself the engraver of fourteen of them. The naturalist who may have attempted similar illustrations will appreciate the labour, perseverance and skill which has been bestowed upon them, and will not harshly censure any errors of detail which a minute criticism may discover. As I could not have undertaken this history without her assistance, I may crave, from any one who shall find a merit in it, the ascription of that merit to my colleague.

BERWICK-UPON-TWEED,
August 15, 1838.