SECTION III.

THE NATURALISTS OF THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY.

Travellers,[1] observers,[2] and compilers[3] continue their work during this period in nearly the same spirit as towards the close of the preceding century, with this difference only, that the field of inquiry is gradually enlarging and extending. It is no longer the mere existence of curious animals and plants which attracts the attention: a desire of appreciating their relations to one another has evidently taken hold of the naturalists, and this aspiration reaches soon a climax in the publication of the "*Systema Naturæ*," the great work of this age, and the foundation of the lasting fame of Linnæus.

Though Linnæus himself added comparatively little to the general stock of information respecting the Acalephs, he had, nevertheless, as great an influence in preparing the way for their systematic arrangement as in other classes of the animal kingdom, by extending to them his binominal nomenclature. Yet, in the "*Systema Naturæ*" the members of the class of Acalephs are so far removed from one another as to show that Linnæus did not even dream of the true relations that unite the

[1] RUMPHIUS (G. Ev.), D'Amboinsche Rariteitkammer, behelzende eene Beschryvinge van allerhande 200 Weeke als harde Schaalvischen, etc., Amsterdam, 1705, fol. fig. — SLOANE (HANS), A Voyage to the Islands of Madeira, Barbados, Nieves, St. Christopher's, and Jamaica, with the Nat. Hist. of the last of these Islands, etc., London, 1707–1725, 2 vols. fol. fig. — TOURNEFORT (JOS. PITTON DE), Relation d'un Voyage du Levant, Paris, 1717, 2 vols. 4to. fig. — FEUILLÉE (LOUIS), Journal d'observations faites sur les côtes orientales de l'Amérique et dans les Indes occidentales, Paris, 1714, 2 vols. 4to. fig. — Journal d'observations faites dans la nouvelle Espagne et aux iles de l'Amérique, Paris, 1725, 4to. — BROWN (PATR.), The Civil and Natural History of Jamaica, etc., London, 1756, fol. fig.

[2] MARSIGLI (L. F.), Brieve Ristretto del Saggio fisico intorno alla Storia del Mare, Venezia, 1711, 4to. fig. (French by Leclerc), Histoire physique de la Mer, Amsterdam, 1725, fol. fig. — RÉAUMUR (R. ANT. DE), Observations sur la formation du Corail et des autres productions appelées Plantes pierreuses, Mém. Acad. Sc. Paris, 1727. — CATESBY (MARK), Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands, etc., London, 1731–1743, 2 vols. fol. fig. col.; Appendix, London, 1748, fol. — PLANCUS (JANUS), De Conchis minùs notis in Littore Ariminensi, Venetiis, 1739, 4to. fig.; edit. altera Romæ, 1760, 4to. fig. — JUSSIEU (BERN. DE), Examen de quelques productions marines qui ont été mises au nombre des Plantes, et qui sont l'ouvrage d'une sorte d'Insecte de mer, Mém. Ac. Sc. Par. 1742, p. 290. fig. — BAKER (H.), Essays on the Natural History of the Polyps, London, 1743, 8vo. fig.

[3] BESLER (M. R.), Rariora Musei Besleriani quæ olim Bas. et M. R. Besler collegerunt, etc. Commentatio illustrata à J. H. Lochner, Nürnberg, 1716, fol. — SEBA (ALB.), Locupletissimi Rerum naturalium Thesauri accurata Descriptio et Iconibus artificiosissimis per universam Physices historiam (Lat. et Gall.), Amstelodami, 1734–1765, 4 vols. fol. fig.