

generic, family, ordinal, classic, or typical characters, so that our works shall no longer exhibit the annoying confusion, which is to be met almost everywhere, of generic characters in the diagnoses of species, or of family and ordinal characters in the characteristics of classes and types.¹

It may perhaps be said, that all this will not render the study of Zoölogy more easy. I do not expect that it will; but if an attentive consideration of what I have stated in the preceding pages respecting classification, should lead to a more accurate investigation of all the different relations existing among animals, and between them and the world in which they live, I shall consider myself as having fully succeeded in the object I have had in view from the beginning, in this inquiry. Moreover, it is high time that certain zoölogists, who would call themselves investigators, should remember, that natural objects, to be fully understood, require more than a passing glance; they should imitate the example of astronomers, who have not become tired of looking into the relations of the few members of our solar system to determine, with increased precision, their motions, their size, their physical constitution, and keep in mind that every organized being, however simple in its structure, presents to our appreciation far more complicated phenomena, within our reach, than all the celestial bodies put together; they should remember, that as the great literary productions of past ages attract ever anew the attention of scholars, who can never feel that they have exhausted the inquiry into their depth and beauty, so the living works of God, which it is the proper sphere of Zoölogy to study, would never cease to present new attractions to them, should they proceed to the investigation with the right spirit. Their studies ought, indeed, inspire every one with due reverence and admiration for such wonderful productions.

The subject of classification in particular, which seems to embrace apparently so limited a field in the science of animals, cannot be rightly and fully understood without a comprehensive knowledge of all the topics alluded to in the preceding pages.

¹ As I do not wish to be personal, I will refrain from quoting examples to justify this assertion. I would only request those who care to be accurate, to examine critically almost any description of species,

any characterization of genera, of families, of orders, of classes, and of types, to satisfy themselves that characters of the same kind are introduced almost indiscriminately to distinguish all these groups.