

INTRODUCTION.

EVERY art and science has a language of technical terms peculiar to itself. With those terms every student must make himself familiarly acquainted at the outset; and, first of all, he will desire to know the names of the objects about which he is to be engaged.

The names of objects in Natural History are double; that is to say, they are composed of two terms. Thus, we speak of the white-bear, the black-bear, the hen-hawk, the sparrow-hawk; or, in strictly scientific terms, we have *Felis leo*, the lion, *Felis tigris*, the tiger, *Felis catus*, the cat, *Canis lupus*, the wolf, *Canis vulpes*, the fox, *Canis familiaris*, the dog, &c. They are always in the Latin form, and consequently the adjective name is placed last. The first is called the *generic* name; the second is called the *trivial*, or *specific* name.

These two terms are inseparably associated in every object of which we treat. It is very important, therefore, to have a clear idea of what is meant by the terms *genus* and *species*; and although the most common of all others, they are not the easiest to be clearly understood. The Genus is