

to prove that their blunders would have been less had they paid some attention to the differences of climates ; if the history of animals had been so far studied as to discover, which I have done, that those of the southern parts of each continent are never found in both ; and lastly, if they had abstained from generic names, which have confounded together a number of species, not only different, but even remote from each other.

The true business of a nomenclator is not to enlarge his list, but to form rational comparisons in order to contract it. Nothing can be more easy than, by perusing all the authors on animals, and by selecting their names and phrases, to form a table which however will always be long, in proportion as the enquiry is superficial ; while nothing can be more difficult than to compare them with that judgment and discernment which is necessary to reduce that table to its proper dimensions. I said before, and now repeat, that in the whole known part of the globe there are not above 200 species of quadrupeds, including among them 40 species of apes. To each of these, therefore, we had only to appropriate a name ; and to retain 200 names, only a very moderate exertion of memory is required ; for what purpose then are quadrupeds formed into classes  
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