

The reception of the system of Jussieu in this country was not so ready and cordial as that of Linnæus. As we have already noticed, the two systems were looked upon as rivals. Thus Roscoe, in 1810,¹³ endeavored to show that Jussieu's system was not more natural than the Linnæan, and was inferior as an artificial system : but he argues his points as if Jussieu's characters were the grounds of his distribution ; which, as we have said, is to mistake the construction of a natural system. In 1803, Salisbury¹⁴ had already assailed the machinery of the system, maintaining that there are no cases of perigynous stamens, as Jussieu assumes ; but this he urges with great expressions of respect for the author of the method. And the more profound botanists of England soon showed that they could appreciate and extend the natural method. Robert Brown, who had accompanied Captain Flinders to New Holland in 1801, and who, after examining that country, brought home, in 1805, nearly four thousand species of plants, was the most distinguished example of this. In his preface to the *Prodromus Floræ Novæ Hollandiæ*, he says, that he found himself under the necessity of employing the natural method, as the only way of avoiding serious error, when he had to deal with so many new genera as occur in New Holland ; and that he has, therefore, followed the method of Jussieu ; the greater part of whose orders are truly natural, "although their arrangement in classes, as is," he says, "conceded by their author, no less candid than learned, is often artificial, and, as appears to me, rests on doubtful grounds."

From what has already been said, the reader will, I trust, see what an extensive and exact knowledge of the vegetable world, and what comprehensive views of affinity, must be requisite in a person who has to modify the natural system so as to make it suited to receive and arrange a great number of new plants, extremely different from the genera on which the arrangement was first formed, as the New Holland genera for the most part were. He will also see how impossible it must be to convey by extract or description any notion of the nature of these modifications : it is enough to say, that they have excited the applause of botanists wherever the science is studied, and that they have induced M. de Humboldt and his fellow-laborers, themselves botanists of the first rank, to dedicate one of their works to him in terms of the strongest admiration.¹⁵ Mr. Brown has also published

¹³ *Linn. Tr.* vol. xi. p. 50.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* vol. viii.

¹⁵ Roberto Brown, *Britanniarum gloriæ atque ornamento, totam Botanicæ scientiam ingenio mirifico complectenti, &c.*