

ganization, constitutes what is usually termed *PHYSIOLOGY*, a science of vast and almost boundless extent, since it comprehends within its range all the animal and vegetable beings on the globe. This ample field of inquiry has, of late years, been cultivated with extraordinary diligence and success by the naturalists of every country; and from their collective labours there has now been amassed an immense store of facts, and a rich harvest of valuable discoveries. But in the execution of my task this exuberance of materials was rather a source of difficulty; for it created the necessity of more careful selection and of a more extended plan.

In conformity with the original purpose of the work, which I have all along endeavoured to keep steadfastly in view, I have excluded from it all those particulars of the natural history both of animals and of plants, and all description of those structures, of which the relation to final causes cannot be distinctly traced; and have admitted only such facts as afford manifest evidences of design. These facts I have studied to arrange in that methodized order, and to unite in those comprehensive generalizations, which not only conduce to their more ready acquisition and retention in the memory, but tend also to enlarge our views of their mutual connexions, and of their subordination to the general plan of creation. My endeavours have been directed to give