

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE original intention of publishing "*The Boudoir Recreations in Botany*," consisting merely of about twenty or thirty Illustrations in quarto, and which were to have appeared in the spring of 1836, was abandoned for the present work; but Mrs. Perkins having been solicited to continue the subject in its higher departments, she has, under this flattering circumstance, to announce for publication, early in May next, "*Physiological Researches in Botany*," with *twenty highly engraved Plates, to contain nearly three hundred Illustrations.*

EXPLANATION OF FRONTISPIECE.

CLASS V.—*Pentandria*.

FIG. I

Nicotiana Tabacum (Common Tobacco.)

- A. A. Perianth
- B The Corolla before it has expanded.
- C. The Tube of the Corolla.
- D. The Border of the Corolla, injudiciously termed Limbus.
- E. The Swollen Germe enveloped by the Perianth.
- ε ε, ε The Bractæ (Bractes)
- ι. The Fube.
- σ. The Corolla cut open, to exhibit the Stigma η, surrounded by its five Anthers.
- ι. The Pericarp opened
- κ. The same horizontally cut.

FIG II

A *Species* of *Convolvulus*, from *Florida*.

- A. The Perianth.
- B. The Tube of the Corolla.
- C The Corolla, exhibiting the Stigma and its five Anthers.

PREFACE.

“And he spake of Trees, from the *Cedar Tree* that is in *Lebanon* even unto the *Hyssop* that springeth out of the wall.”—1 *Kings*, iv. 33.

THE votary of the delightful science of Botany beholds order and contrivance where the uninformed spectator sees but the splendor of colour; and the direct tendency of so edifying an occupation is to lead the mind to contemplate the adorable perfection and goodness of HIM who has bestowed so much of grace and art even upon the inanimate and insensate objects of his creation.

No department of Natural History more strongly evinces the existence of a *Supreme Cause* than the study of the vegetable world;

the simplicity and harmony of which are well calculated to elevate, while they delight the mind :

“ But not alike to every mortal eye
 Is this great scene unveil'd. For since the claims
 Of social life to different labours urge
 The active powers of man; with wise intent
 The hand of *Nature* on peculiar minds
 Imprints a different bias, and to each
 Decrees its province in the common toil.
 To some she taught the fabric of the sphere,
 The changeful moon, the circuit of the stars,
 The golden zones of *Heaven*: to some she gave
 To weigh the moment of eternal things,
 Of time, and space, and fate's unbroken cham,
 And will's quick impulse: *others by the hand*
She led o'er vales and mountains, to explore
What healing virtue swells the tender veins
Of herbs and flowers, or what the beams of morn
Draw forth, distilling from the clefted rind
In balmy tears.”

Pleasures of Imagination.—Book i, 79—97.

To the female mind, Botany offers a study peculiarly appropriate and delightful. The objects to which it relates are immediately around us; they are among the loveliest of Nature's works, and it is an additional recommendation of the pursuit, that its effects are alike beneficial

to the corporeal and mental system; for, while the understanding and the taste are gratified, the health is improved and the constitution invigorated.

It is the purpose of this work to present an Introduction to Botanical Science, according to the system of Linnæus; but care has been taken to divest that system of certain repulsive excrescencies which have operated, not merely to the injury of that system, but even to the detriment of the science itself. This is greatly to be regretted: Botany ought not to be held accountable for the bad taste of its professors. Properly expounded, it is a study perfectly unexceptionable, and, in addition to being harmless, it is in various ways positively useful.

We see in it our dependance upon the vegetable world for the ordinary purposes of life, for food and raiment, and even for the means of preserving and restoring the most valuable of all blessings, health.

The study, liberally pursued, comprehends a knowledge of the names and uses of plants, of their external and internal organization, of their

anatomy and physiology; of the modes by which this beautiful clothing of the earth is sustained and renewed; of the laws that regulate the dispersion of seeds and the location of species; and of the influence which climate exercises upon their development.

To these there is yet to be added the inducement which the study holds out to the many who Professor Rennie describes as having "more leisure than they know well how to get rid of;" and to such it must be a matter of no small moment that they endeavour to alleviate, if they cannot remove, their real or supposed cares, by increasing the sources of innocent enjoyment; and, were it for this reason only, Botany ought to stand high in our estimation.

INTRODUCTION.

THE announcement of a new elementary work upon Botany, while so many previously exist, may appear presumptuous and unnecessary; but it is hoped that the present attempt is not open to either imputation. It is true that many works exist of established reputation and considerable merit, but a majority of them are little adapted to the tastes or the capacities of the young; and, from another cause, many are peculiarly unsuited for the perusal of female youth. It is for this description of readers that the present volume has been compiled; and, as simplicity of arrangement was obviously desirable, it has been carefully kept in view. Independently of this, much interesting matter, not generally found in a work purporting to be simply elementary, has been given; while all the exceptionable analogies

by which Linnæus supported his system have been excluded; and so much of the physiology of the subject as could not be explained without them has here been considered as beyond the pale of female study.

To avoid the tendencies above alluded to, and yet to stand upon the Linnæan system, has been the aim of the writer of the following work. The novelty of her position, and the difficulties by which it is surrounded, are obvious. She has felt the latter to be even greater than she anticipated, and nothing but the fullest conviction of the necessity that such a task should be performed has encouraged her to persevere. With the exceptions which have been made, she believes the system of Linnæus to be the best, from its originality, its distinctness, its easy application, and, lastly, though designated artificial, from its being, in fact, a more natural arrangement than the so called system of Jussieu or of any other writer.

Since no natural science can be thoroughly understood from theory alone, it is matter of just surprise that hitherto there should have

been no elementary work in which a general mode for *practically studying Botany* is laid down. The Authoress, therefore, has arranged a model from which cases of instruments are in progress of being made, adapted for the boudoir, the garden, or the fields, by which the allurements to a minute knowledge of the subjects of botanical science may be materially facilitated; thus a new field, replete with objects worthy of cultivation, is presented; and, with much sincerity, it is hoped that it may supersede some of the less important, not to say superficial studies, in the education of many of our sex in the present day.

These instruments will be sold only by the publisher of this volume. Each purchaser will be entitled to a Card of Admission to one Lecture on the uses and the mode of applying the several instruments, which will be delivered at the Publisher's, every Wednesday and Thursday morning, from twelve to two.

