

poët. There is little love of beauty discoverable in the accounts left of the gardens of Alcinoüs: nor is botanical science to be found in the knowledge of Solomon, who knew every herb, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop which groweth on the wall.

It was probably long after society was completely formed, when many felt that leisure which is caused by the distribution of labour, that the minds of men, ever restless and desirous of knowledge, engaged in the pursuit of natural history for its own sake. Aristotle, Aelian, Theophrastus, and Pliny, lived in a comparatively advanced state of civilization. Such men first drew forth natural history from the rude bed of rural oeconomy, and brought it into the area of dawning science, cultivated only in detached parts, according as necessity had engaged attention to certain animated beings. Just as a curious boy takes out a half ripe horse chesnut from its rough pod, pyeballed and ripened only in particular places, to be matured in time into its beautiful uniformity of colour, by the light atmosphere into which it is brought.