

THE
CANADIAN MAGAZINE,

1824

AND
LITERARY REPOSITORY.

No. XVII.

NOVEMBER, 1824.

VOL. III

(For the *Canadian Magazine*.)

ON BOTANY.

Mr. Editor,

In one of your former numbers of the *Canadian Magazine*, I observed a well written paper "on the study of Botany" recommending that beautiful science to the more general attention of both sexes.— One argument in favour of it had escaped your notice; but which is no less true both in theory and practice, namely the very strong attachment which is felt for this study by those few who have paid such attention as to acquire a knowledge of it. This is a strong proof of its attractiveness; and should, I imagine, operate as an inducement to others to enter on a study, which possesses such fascinations for those engaged in it.

The following brief system, with the directions for the young beginner's acquiring a knowledge of this useful science is sent to you for publication or suppression as you think proper. It is compiled from a number of the best writers on botany; and was the work of a juvenile, but zealous devotee to this study, and was first made to assist his own progress in the science; being the idea suggested from finding there existed no simple elementary work fit to be put into the hands of beginners.

Of the various definitions of the science of Botany which have been given by numerous writers on the subject, that by the celebrated Willdenow appears to be the best, and most comprehensive; at the same time is expressed in the most concise form. He says "that science which teaches us to distinguish one plant from another, and leads to the knowledge of its properties, is Botany."

The propriety of this definition will be obvious to the most superficial observer, as it indicates not only the meaning of the science but



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