

## INTRODUCTION.

The history of the "Second American Edition" of Guthrie's Geography, the only edition containing the complete part relating to North American Zoology prepared by George Ord, is involved in strange obscurity. Strictly speaking, this edition is *not* the "Second American," but is third. It is, however, the second of the three editions published by Johnson and Warner, the first appearing in 1809 and the last in 1820. The first of all the American editions of Guthrie's Geography that I can discover is a quarto in two volumes, the first bearing date February 1st, 1794, the second, April 27th, 1795. This edition was also published in Philadelphia, the title page stating it was "printed for Mathew Carey." The edition of 1794 and 1809 contain no attempt at systematic zoology beyond desultory notices of the more striking animal productions of the world. I have been able to find seven volumes of the edition of 1794 and one volume of the edition of 1809 in our principal Philadelphia libraries. Of the edition of 1820, I have been able to find one copy. It was known to Prof. Baird, and Dr. Coues gives its full title in the Bibliographical Appendix to his Birds of the Colorado Valley and remarks that the zoological portion "consists of that given in the *second* ed., 1815, *q. v.*, but with the omission of the systematic list, which represented the whole of the technical value of the matter. Ord's name does not appear in connection with this performance."

Complete titles of these editions and the bibliographic references thereto, made by Prof. Baird and Dr. Coues, will be found in the Appendix to this work. It is hoped that the above facts will stimulate all interested persons in the search for copies of the editions of 1815 and 1820. A strange fatality seems to have overtaken all the Johnson and Warner editions when it is considered that the only known copy of the second edition has just come to light. There is only one copy of the third edition in four of the most important Philadelphia libraries and only half a copy of the first edition. The Carey quarto edition does not seem to be rare.