

PREFACE.

JOHANN REINHOLD FORSTER, the well-known Naturalist, was born at Dirschau in Prussia in 1729, and came to England along with his son George Forster, in order to accompany the circumnavigator Cook on his second voyage.

During his residence in England, before the departure of Cook's Expedition (which took place on the 9th of April, 1772), Forster translated and published an English edition of Kalm's "Travels into North America," in the prefaces to which (Vol. i. p. xv. and Vol. iii. p. vii.) will be found allusions to a projected "American Fauna and Flora." But the present list, as acknowledged by the author himself in his preface, was planned and indeed commenced by Pennant, who in his "Literary Life" (p. 14) writes, "In this year (1771) doctor Forster published a catalogue of the animals of North America. I had begun the work by a list of the quadrupeds, birds and fishes. Doctor Forster added all the rest; and afterwards, in a new edition, favored the world with a most comprehensive *Flora* of that vast country, with a catalogue of insects, and the directions for preserving natural curiosities. My part in this work is of so little merit, that it need not be boasted of. I only lay claim to my proper right."