

It is to this labor lost that Bacon, we presume, alludes in his definitive sentence, that "the ancient Greeks were like children, ripe at talk, but unripe in works ;" and says he "if our complaint appear unjust to any one, while so great a philosopher as Aristotle, assisted by so great a prince as Alexander, has compiled such an exact history of animals, and while others have written copious histories on plants, metals, fossils, &c., he does not appear sufficiently to understand our meaning. A natural history compiled for its own sake is one thing, and a natural history collected for informing the understanding, in order to the building up of natural philosophy, is another." For by this, in the main, is added to natural history all those benefits which it is capable of conferring on mankind : and as he who first described the silk-worm or the cotton-plant, water, the load-stone, nitre, lightning, intermittent fever, &c, unquestionably did little in comparison for mankind with him who to the first, added the manufacturing of silk or cotton as a garment ; or to the second, the use of water in the turning of wheels, and its adaptation to mills and machinery ; or to the third, the mariner's compass ; or to the fourth, gunpowder and its use in the art of war, and in mining, and the use of nitre as a diuretic and in inflammations ; or to the fifth, lightning conductors ; or to the sixth, a specific, as bark, for the cure of the disease : so those who wrote on natural his-