

plants, wholly new, or such as have been hitherto imperfectly described.

The other branches of natural history are under the care of Messrs. N. A. Vigors, Edward Bennett, J. E. Gray, Richard Owen, Dr. Richardson, R. N., and Mr. T. Lay, the naturalist to the expedition, and the geology of Professor Buckland and Captain Belcher, R. N.; to all of whom I must express my warmest thanks, for their cordial assistance, and for the ready and handsome manner in which they have taken upon themselves the task of describing and of superintending the delineation of the various specimens. Their contributions will form another 4to. volume of species entirely new, or, as before, of such as have been imperfectly described. The public in general are not aware how much is due to these gentlemen, without whose zeal and aid they would be deprived of much useful knowledge; for, notwithstanding the liberal assistance of his Majesty's government, there is so little encouragement for works of the above-mentioned description, that they could not be published unless the contributions were gratuitously offered to the publishers.