

P R E F A C E .

THE FOREST TREES OF AMERICA, being a subject of such great extent and importance, I felt, consequently, very diffident of undertaking their study, after what has been already done so well by my predecessor M. MICHAUX. Yet, in offering a new edition of the AMERICAN SYLVA in English, it appeared requisite, in keeping pace with the progress of discovery, that all the forest trees of the extended dominion of the United States, should, in some way or other, be included in the present publication; and, I confess, the magnitude of the task appeared, at first, sufficiently appalling, when we reflect on the vast territory now claimed by the United States. Beginning with the arctic limits of all arborescent vegetation, in the wilds of Canada, which we cannot, with propriety, exclude, forming as it does the boreal boundary of the North American forest; we then follow the extended shores of the Atlantic, until, towards the extremity of East Florida, and its Keys or Islands, we have attained the very confines of the tropical circle and make a near approach to the island of Cuba and the Bahamas: turning westward, we pass over the wide forests of the Mississippi, pursue the western streams, through vast woodless plains, until we attain the long crests of the "Rocky Mountains" or Northern Andes. Here, in these alpine regions, we meet with a total