

*The Preface.*

We have store of Histories of Animals of both these ways; For besides the great and Magnificent Works which *Aristotle*, *Pliny*, *Solinus*, and *Ælian* have composed of what they found in other Authors, or which they learnt from those who had made some Observations themselves; We have likewise some perticular Relations which Travellers have written, of Abundance of Animals which are found onely in the Countries where they have been: And those who have made the Description of the severall Parts of the World, have not forgotten that of the Animals which are there to be found. But it may be said that there is not found any certainty in these Histories, nor in these Relations. Those who have writt the General History of Animals, have thought to render it sufficiently acceptable by the great number of things which they do relate, and by the distribution which they do make of the Animals into their different Species; with their resemblances and differences which are found in their parts of which the various conformation, and all their Natural properties are ranged in some common *Classes*. For it is in this that they have chiefly imployed their dilligence and industry, the rest not belonging to them, but to those who had made the Description of the Animals on the places, and whose exactness and fidelitie could not be sufficiently known to them, to answer for them. So that the Materials, of which these Authors have composed their Works, being for the most part defective and layd on sandy Foundations, it may be truly said that the great Structure which they have afterwards built thereon, with so curious a Symmetry, has no real Solidity.

Therefore the Curious and Learned, who had formerly but little valued the worke of *Petrus Gillius*, when he undertook to metho-dize what *Ælian*, had confusedly related of Animals, have been much concerned at the loss of the excellent Remarks which he afterwards made, in the Travels which *Francis. I.* Caused him to take into Forreign Countries. For he was a very Judicious and perspicacious Man; who was instructed by reading of all Authors that writt on this Subject, and was purposely sent by the King to make this search, and who applied himselfe thereunto with a particular care; which made him capable of observing whatever was remarkable in Animals.

The want of these Qualifications, in the generality of those which have made particular Relations and *Memoires*, renders their Labour inconsiderable, and their Testimony very suspitious: It being