

duction of Colonel Montagu to his *Ornithological Dictionary*, may be consulted with both profit and satisfaction.

But in respect to system, if we except Belon, Gesner, Aldrovandus, and Johnston, all of whom have made, more or less, attempts at arrangement, there are but few who have taken more than a desultory view of the matter.

Our Countryman, the great Ray, therefore, may be justly considered the first author of system, and it is to him that we are indebted for the valuable Ornithology of Francis Willughby, Esq. which, though published as far back as the year 1679, has not lost its celebrity; but from that time Ornithology has made a rapid progress.

From hence we are naturally led to the name of the ever to be remembered Linnaeus, who not only has descanted largely on Birds, but, at one view, drawn together, as it were, all nature and her productions, into his *Systema Naturæ*, and his method, as far as relates to our subject, has served as a basis, to the present day. There is one thing, however, which has appeared unaccountable, and in which he differs from Ray. The latter separated all birds into two grand divisions; the one, those which frequent land—the other, those which frequent water: but Linnaeus divides the land birds into two parts, placing the water birds between. This has ever seemed to us unnatural, and has, therefore, not been admitted in the present work. We prefer Ray's original arrangement, but adhere to the Linnaean Genera, except in such instances as manifestly required a deviation; and it will not escape the reader's attention, that we have, from this necessity, ourselves formed several new ones; for instance, in the Synopsis—Wattle-bird, Channel-bill, Plant-cutter, Plantain-eater, Coly, Menura, Tinamou, Sheath-bill, Cereopsis.