

Greenland will appear not only appropriate, but often elegant. Yet with all its merits, the phraseology of Crantz savours too much of the age and country in which he wrote to suit the taste of an English reader in the present dispensation of literature. The intrusion of a literal version of his history among the other publications of the day, would have much the same effect as the appearance of a person dressed in the costume fashionable at the beginning of the last century, in one of the emporia of modern gentility.

The former, almost verbal translation of 1767, retained all the defects of method, along with a style, far inferior to that of the original in comparative excellence; yet, it likewise preserved some portion of that homely strength and manliness which characterises its diction, and which may perhaps be missed by some readers of the present edition. The Editors trust, however, that in paring off the redundancies, and modernising the uncouth dress of the original, they have not wantonly departed from their text, and lost sight of a due regard to fidelity. Without suffering themselves to be cramped by an adherence to the old version, they have compared it throughout with the German, and sometimes made use of its rendering in such parts of it as seemed best executed.

In the first part of the work, delineating the face of the country, and the manners, superstitions, and traditions of its inhabitants, the alterations and omissions are few and unimportant; as it was not deemed necessary to suppress even those recitals of monsters and prodigies, which, though they seem to indicate a degree of credulity when admitted into the domain of sober prose, still found some quarter, and perhaps credence, with a man of our author's sound judgment. The chief improvements, if we may thus designate them, have been made in investing the subjects of natural history with the convenient nomenclature of modern science. And if this has been accomplished only in a very imperfect degree, the reader is requested to bear in mind that the scientific distinctions both of species