

relegating them to a place where they need not be found unless sought for.

It was no definite purpose of mine to gather notes on subjects of a scientific nature, nor closely to record the geographical features of the country through which I travelled; where, however, details of that class do happen to occur, I have thought it best to give them as they actually stand, without attempting to improve them by private collation with the valuable works on the same part of northern America, which have appeared since the date of my journey,—every collation throughout the volume being distinctly pointed out, and very carefully acknowledged.* Superior in various important respects as some of these works must undoubtedly be to mine,—composed as they were by men of science attached to exploring expeditions organised by the British and Canadian Governments,—I cannot but remember that my information, however cursorily noted, was either gained by personal observation, or from sources so good, that, in cases of difference (and a few such there may be), it is by no means impossible that I am in the right, and the more qualified author in the wrong. At all events, in such cases a comparison would be worth the making; so I have left the means of making it, instead of seeking to prevent disparities by the invasion of another man's store, whenever his materials seemed better than those collected by myself.

* I specially refer to the Reports by Captain Palliser's expedition, and to the books or Reports by Mr. Hind, Lord Milton, Captain Butler, and the Rev. Mr. Grant. While my book owes exceedingly little to any of these more recent publications, it is very largely indebted to Sir John Richardson's admirable *Fauna Boreali-Americana* (1829-31), from which (as will be seen) I have taken nearly all the zoological details that occur in the footnotes and elsewhere.