

PREFACE

TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

SINCE the publication of the third edition of this pamphlet, I have obtained additional proof of the migratory nature of the Swallow, from a new source.

Finding that the organization of the heads of birds of this genus corresponds with the notion of their possessing great power of conceiving the local situations of different countries, and finding their way about; it may be important to add this species of evidence to the mass of proof drawn from other fountains; as a means of washing away the prejudices established on the casual and rare occurrences of these birds being found under water. As, however, such facts seem to have been well authenticated in a few instances, it becomes a worthy subject of future inquiry, what causes impede their migration, and whence the birds derive their propensity to take such an occasional subterfuge?

Having alluded to a peculiarity of organization as giving peculiar propensities, it may seem necessary to explain to the reader the theory of instincts involved in this mode of accounting for the manners of animated beings. But as this would be a tedious and long circumlo-