

more in Maryland, with a determination not to return to Europe until I should have examined that country to the utmost extent of my means and abilities. In 1811, after an absence of nearly twelve years, I returned to Europe, with an ample stock of materials towards a **FLORA OF NORTH AMERICA**, an attempt at which I now venture to lay before the public, with the flattering hope, that a generous allowance will be made for its unavoidable imperfections, when the extent of the undertaking is considered; and that it will be accepted as it really is intended, as only the groundwork of some future more perfect work upon the subject.

As it may be interesting to some readers to have a sketch of the particulars of my stay in America, and to be informed of the means by which I became possessed of so general a collection of its plants, I shall give a few outlines thereof, previous to the necessary remarks respecting the execution of the work itself.

My first object, after my arrival in America, was to form an acquaintance with all those interested in the study of Botany. Among these I had the pleasure to account one of the earliest, and ever after the most valuable, the Rev. Dr. Mühlenberg of Lancaster, in Pennsylvania, a gentleman whose industry and zeal for the science can only be surpassed by the accuracy and acuteness of his observations; I only regret, that his extensive and interesting materials towards a Flora of the United States, in which he has been engaged for a number of years, should not before this have been communicated to the public.

I next visited the old established gardens of Mr. Marshall, author of a small "Treatise on the Forest-trees