

PREFACE.

THE present essay, reprinted from the sixty-second volume of the "Philosophical Transactions," was, like the "Faunula Americana," no doubt written by FORSTER during his temporary residence in this country before his departure with Cook on his second voyage.

The circumstances which led to its preparation are explained in the following paragraph, which is attached to the corresponding paper on the Quadrupeds of Hudson's Bay (*Phil. Trans.* LXII. p. 370).

"Among the occasional advantages, which the observations of the late Transit of Venus have procured, that of receiving useful informations from, and settling correspondencies in, several parts of the world, is not the least considerable. From the factory at Hudson's Bay, the Royal Society were favoured with a large collection of uncommon quadrupeds, birds, fishes, &c., together with some account of their names, place of abode, manner of life, uses, by Mr Graham, a gentleman belonging to the settlement on Severn River; and the Governors of the Hudson's Bay Company have most obligingly sent orders, that these communications should be from time to time continued."

"The descriptions contained in the following papers were prepared and given by Mr Forster, before his departure on an expedition, which will probably open an ample field to the most important discoveries."