

Owing to the worn and imperfect condition of the type and its very small size as used in the tabulated lists, many of the characters are to be distinguished only by closest scrutiny. On this account it was concluded that a photographic reprint was impracticable. As stated in my circular of announcement, as nearly as possible the reprint is an exact reproduction of the style, form, size, paging, paragraphing, typography and inaccuracies of the original. The tables, which contain, with their foot notes, that part of the reprint most requiring absolute accuracy, have, (if that were possible), received greater care than the text.

Apart from its technical value, the work before us has great historic and literary interest. The name of George Ord was long ago immortally associated with that of Alexander Wilson. If the latter is the Father of North American Ornithology, Mr. Ord, in a humbler sense, may be characterized Father of North American Zoology, his contribution to Guthrie's Geography being the first systematic Zoology of America by an American. The limited and concise nature of this production gives only a casual glimpse at the personality of its author: when, however, it does reveal itself, the same lofty and sacred animus which inspired the noblest writings of Wilson and Audubon is unmistakable.

The systematic zoologist of to-day, wearied with the modern technicalities of his profession, does well to recur to the heartfelt delineations of nature by the old school masters, and to consider the present scramble after names and novelties as a mere accessory to a clearer, more spiritual insight and interpretation of life. George Ord was quick to recognize in Wilson and others of his day the traits of true genius for the study of nature, because he possessed these requirements in no small degree himself. To him the study of Natural History was not merely a delight or a hobby, but it became a sacred trust; by it he not only sought to please but to instruct, to correct the crude misrepresentations of foreign naturalists, to truthfully portray the zoological productions of his native land and divert the reader from an abstract view of created things to contemplate the omniscient plan of the Creative Mind.

The modesty of George Ord is noteworthy. In neither edition of Guthrie's Geography containing the North American Zoology does his name appear. In the "Advertisement" preface to the edition of 1815 (vol. 1.) the editor refers to it in the following words:-