

**AN ESSAY ON THE
APPLICATION
OF NATURAL
HISTORY TO POETRY**

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An Essay on the Application of Natural History to Poetry by J. Aikin

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BY J. AIKIN.

CETERA, QUAE VACUAS TENUISSENT CARMINE MENTES,
OMNIA JAM VULGATA.

VIRGIL.

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MDCCLXXVII.

T O

THOMAS PENNANT, Esq.
F. R. S.

O F

DOWNING, FLINTSHIRE.

S I R,

INDEPENDENTLY of the desire I might have of publickly expressing my grateful sense of the friendship with which you honour me, justice would seem to require that a piece, the original idea of which was solely derived from an acquaintance with your works, and which to them is indebted for its most valuable materials, should be inscribed to you.

ITs

iv DEDICATION.

ITS purpose is such as I flatter myself will obtain your approbation. It is to add incitements to the study of natural history, by placing in a stronger light than has yet been done, the advantages that may result from it to the most exalted and delightful of all arts, that of poetry. That this study is not only a source of agreeable and innocent amusement, but conduces to humanize and enlarge the mind, and in various ways to promote the happiness of mankind, has been sufficiently proved by the observations of many ingenious writers. But its application to the improvement of poetry, has not, I believe, been the subject of particular discussion.

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DEDICATION. v

cussion. By considering it in this view, I therefore thought that something new in its favour might be suggested; and if what I have done shall be the means of acquiring you a single fellow-labourer in your interesting researches into BRITISH ZOOLOGY, I shall not be dissatisfied with my success.

I am,

S I R,

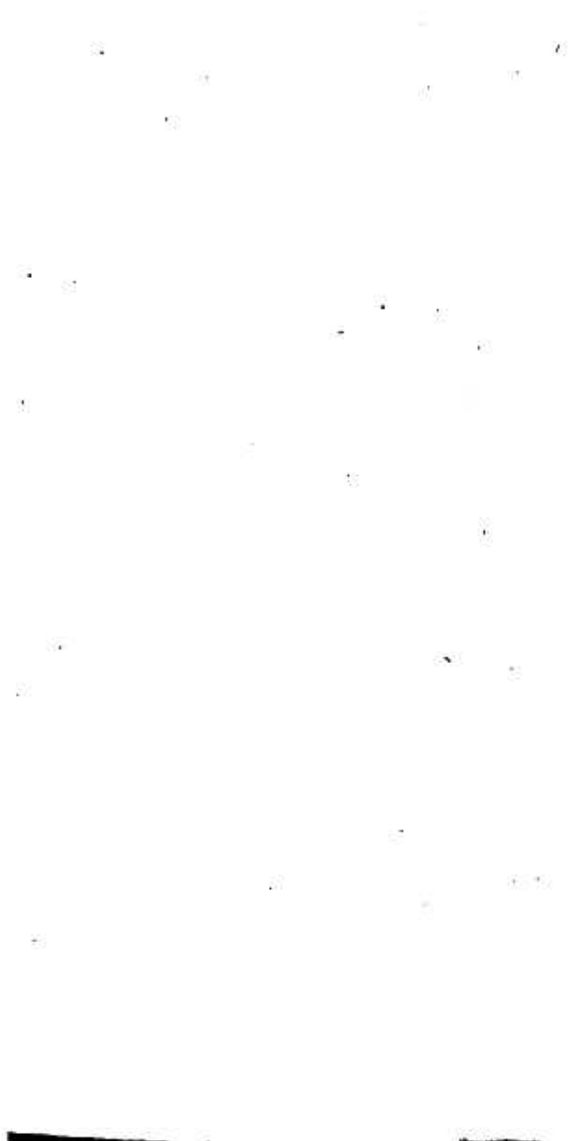
With the sincerest respect and esteem,

Your most obedient,

and obliged Servant,

WARRINGTON,
Feb. 1, 1777.

JOHN AIKIN.



A N
E S S A Y
ON THE APPLICATION OF
NATURAL HISTORY
TO
P O E T R Y.

NO literary complaint is more frequent and general than that of the insipidity of Modern Poetry. While the votary of science is continually gratified with new objects opening to his view, the lover
B of