

THE SYSTEM OF NATURE: AN ESSAY

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The System of Nature: An Essay by Edward Newman

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EDWARD NEWMAN

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THE SYSTEM OF NATURE.

THE
SYSTEM OF NATURE:
AN ESSAY.

BY
EDWARD NEWMAN, F.L.S., Z.S., &c.

SECOND EDITION.



LONDON:
JOHN VAN VOORST, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1843.

"Experience once recognised as the fountain of all our knowledge of Nature, it follows that, in the study of nature and its laws, we ought at once to make up our minds to dismiss as idle prejudices, or at least suspend as premature, any preconceived notion of what might, or what ought to be, the order of Nature in any proposed case, and content ourselves with observing, as a plain matter of fact, what is." — *Herschell's Preliminary Discourse*, p. 79.

TO

THADDEUS WILLIAM HARRIS, M.D.,

LIBRARIAN TO HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

I RESPECTFULLY DEDICATE

THIS HUMBLE ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY

THE PRINCIPLES

PERVADING

THE SYSTEM OF NATURE.

P R E F A C E.

As this essay never before appeared under its present title, it seems necessary to explain why it is called a second edition.

In the year 1832 I published an essay under the title of 'Sphinx Vespiformis,' the object of which was to set forth the views now more fully explained.

The essay in question contained three chapters;—the first 'On the Primary Division of Nature;' the second 'On the Classes of Insecta;' and the third 'On the Sub-classes of Lepidoptera.'

The third chapter, treating solely of Lepidoptera, is entirely omitted in the present edition, and this for two reasons;—*first*, the subject seemed complete without that chapter; and *secondly*, my knowledge of Lepidoptera is not sufficiently extensive to enable me to elucidate my views by an analysis of that beautiful class. The insect whose situation formed a principal subject of the chapter in question, is not mentioned in the present edition, consequently its name, as a title, could not, with propriety, be retained.