

**A GRAMMAR OF BOTANY:
ILLUSTRATIVE OF ARTIFICIAL, AS
WELL AS NATURAL CLASSIFICATION:
WITH AN EXPLANATION OF
JUSSIEU'S SYSTEM**

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SIR JAMES EDWARD SMITH

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A
GRAMMAR OF BOTANY,

ILLUSTRATIVE OF
ARTIFICIAL, AS WELL AS NATURAL,
CLASSIFICATION,

WITH AN EXPLANATION OF
JUSSIEU'S SYSTEM.

BY
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&c. &c.
PRESIDENT OF THE LINNEAN SOCIETY.

Natural Orders instruct us in the nature of plants; artificial ones teach us
to know one plant from another. *Lin., Gen. Pl. ad Ord. Nat.*

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ΑΛΕΞΕ ΠΛΑΜΜΑΝ.



TO
MRS. CORRIE,
OF WOODVILLE LODGE, NEAR BIRMINGHAM,
THE AUTHOR DEDICATES THIS WORK;
AS A SINCERE TESTIMONY
OF ESTEEM AND RESPECT,
FOR THOSE EMINENT, THOUGH UNOBTRUSIVE,
VIRTUES AND TALENTS,
WITH WHICH,
BUT FOR THE SCIENCE OF BOTANY,
HE MIGHT NEVER HAVE HAD THE HAPPINESS
OF BECOMING ACQUAINTED.

Norwich, Sept. 27, 1823.

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P R E F A C E.

THE intention of the present volume is not only to supply some deficiencies, in a work of the same author, entitled *An Introduction to Physiological and Systematical Botany*; but also to follow up its design, by additional information; especially on the subject of the natural classification, or affinities, of plants. The reception of that elementary treatise has been such, as to make it incumbent on the author to neglect no opportunity of being further useful. Yet he has not, hitherto, thought proper to add any new matter to the successive editions of his book, which the possessors of the original might not obtain in a separate form. The fourth edition, and the American one, have therefore merely received such emendations and corrections as might prevent mistakes. To the fifth, lately published, some recent observations or discoveries, as well as some hypotheses and changes made by eminent French writers, have rendered a few additions necessary.

The popularity and success of the former work have, as usual, called forth many labourers into the same field. Some of these, though borrowing from it with unsparing hands, have thought proper to vary the form of their instructions; partly perhaps to conceal that want of originality, which generally enfeebles all compilations; and partly to tempt weak or sickly appetites, which have no previous taste for the invigorating food of real knowledge. It is a commendable intention to lure such triflers, by tales or dialogues, to more solid reading, and more efficient instruction. I mean not to discommend or undervalue any of these humble attempts; but the subject must not be reduced to their level. The only radical fault in compilers, especially of elementary scientific instruction, is their inability to appreciate what is most important to teach or to enforce. Hence they encumber themselves, and alarm beginners, with loads of unmeaning names, and of useless, or discarded, terms. Let such be found in their proper places, but not obtruded on the student where they can render him no service. The elements of every science are necessarily dry enough; but when they are correct and

clear, they charm by their precision ; a taste for which quality is one of the great advantages to be derived by the youthful mind, from the study of nature.

With these considerations in view, I have commenced the present volume with what may be termed a Botanical Grammar. In the first five chapters the parts of the vegetable body, and their uses, are defined in a concise and methodical manner, with none but important technical terms. Perhaps the contents of these chapters might, with advantage, be learned by heart ; the young scholar being directed to seek out examples, of each particular part, or character, as he proceeds, from the garden or fields. The more ample *Introduction to Botany* would furnish his tutor with references to every example in books, that could possibly be wanted ; and the pupil might gradually be led on to a wider circle of terminology, (especially with regard to leaves,) necessary to be known before the *species* of plants can be investigated in detail. If the contents of these five chapters be well stored up in the mind, and the meaning of all the terms, therein explained, clearly and distinctly impressed upon the memory, the student will