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Until the nineteenth century, the investigation of natural phenomena, plants and animals was considered either the preserve of elite scholars or a pastime for the leisured upper classes. As increasing academic rigour and systematisation was brought to the study of 'natural history', its subdisciplines were adopted into university curricula, and learned societies (such as the London Zoological Society, founded in 1826) were established to support research in these areas. These developments are reflected in the books reissued in this series, which describe the anatomy and characteristics of animals ranging from invertebrates to polar bears, fish to birds, in habitats from Arctic North America to the tropical forests of Malaysia. By the middle of the nineteenth century, this work and developments in research on fossils had resulted in the formulation of the theory of evolution.

The Natural History of the Order Cetacea

Before Henry William Dewhurst established himself in Bloomsbury, where he lectured in 1827–8 on anatomy and physiology, he served as a ship's surgeon and made a journey to Greenland and its surrounding seas in 1824. During that time he was able to study the large Arctic creatures that fascinated him, especially whales. In the decade after his return, he prepared this thorough description of polar sea life. Published in 1834, it includes many engraved illustrations. Whales were of especial interest in this period, owing to the use of their blubber in many household objects, and Dewhurst also touches on the practice of whaling. His work was one of the first studies to examine the different species of whales, as well as dolphins and other marine life. It stands as an important contribution to the development of Arctic zoology.

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THE
NATURAL HISTORY
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ORDER CETACEA,
 AND THE
OCEANIC INHABITANTS
 OF THE
ARCTIC REGIONS.

By HENRY WILLIAM DEWHURST, Esq.,
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Professor of Natural History, Human, Veterinary, and Zoological Anatomy; Fellow of the Westminster Medical, Royal Jennerian, and London Vaccine Societies; Corresponding Member of the Worcestershire Natural History Society, Honorary Member of the London Veterinary Society; Author of a Dictionary of Anatomy, Guide to Phrenology, Dissertation on the Component Parts of an Animal Body, Essays on the Zoology of Man and the Study of Natural History, Lectures on Pathological Anatomy, and the Architecture of the Human Body; Practical Remarks on the New improved System of Warming Dwelling-Houses and Cathedrals with Hot Water, &c.; and of numerous papers on Natural History, Mental Philosophy, &c., in the Scientific and Literary Journals, &c.

“ And ELOHIM created great *Whales*, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly after their kind, and ELOHIM saw that it was good.”—*Genesis* i. ver. 21.

“ The works of the Lord are *wonderful* and glorious; his righteousness endureth for ever, and he hath made his wonderful works to be remembered.” *Ps.* cxi. 24.

“ He, who does not make himself acquainted with God, from the consideration of Nature, will scarcely acquire knowledge of him from any other source; for if we have not *faith* in the things which are *seen*, how shall we believe those things which are not seen?”—*Linnæus*.

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 EARL OF STANHOPE. F. L. S.
 PRESIDENT OF THE MEDICO-BOTANICAL
 SOCIETY OF LONDON. &c. &c.

This Work on ARCTIC MARINE ZOOLOGY, Is Most respectfully Dedicated as a trifling acknowledgement, of the GREAT BENEFITS His Lordship has conferred upon SCIENCE, and the zeal he has evinced for its cultivation and Diffusion.

*By His Lordships Humble,
 and Obedient Servant.*

THE AUTHOR.

January, 1854.

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TO THE

LADIES, NOBILITY, CLERGY, AND GENTRY,

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MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

When I consider the circumstances under which I had the honour of soliciting many of you to kindly patronize this work, I feel it my bounden duty to return you my sincere thanks for your prompt compliance with my wishes. To such of you as are dignitaries and clergymen of the established church, my gratitude is in particular due, not only for the support you have individually rendered me, but likewise for the kind interest and zeal you have taken in promoting the success of this volume among your friends and acquaintance. I am aware that you may deem it invidious for me to mention any of your names who have thus benefitted me ; but I conceive that I should be guilty of an act of ingratitude were I not to mention the names of the Earls of Abingdon and Stanhope ; William Cunninghame, Esq. ; Rev. Provost of King's College, Cambridge ; Rev. W. Jeffreys ; Henry Thompson, Esq., of York ; Rev. Dr. Lingard ; Thomas Castle, Esq., M.D., of Trinity College, Cambridge ; Rev. Professor Buckland, D. D., Oxford ; Sharon Turner, Esq., F.A.S. ; Mrs. Arthur Wainewright ; P. H. Leathes, Esq., F.A.S. ; Edwin Lees, Esq., of Worcester ; The Hon. and Rev. Charles Bathurst, LL. D., and

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lastly, although not the least, Sir Arthur de Capell Brooke, to whose personal kindness, and subsequent letters of recommendation, no less than upwards of seventy of the most illustrious among you, kindly consented to patronize this volume.

Having in its proper place explained the necessity of a work of this nature, I need not here repeat it; and in conclusion have only to observe, that I earnestly hope my humble endeavours to diffuse information on the Marine Zoology of the Polar Regions, and to fill up a chasm in this interesting department of Zoological Literature, may be so fortunate as to meet your approbation: should this be the case, I may be tempted to write another volume, illustrative of the Natural History of the Quadrupeds and Birds inhabiting those bleak abodes. With every sentiment of respect and gratitude,

I have the honour
to remain,

MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN,

Your humble, obedient, and

obliged Servant,

H. W. DEWHURST.

January 1834.

P. S. I have to apologize for the delay that has taken place in the publication of this work, but it has occurred from circumstances over which I had no control.

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PREFACE.

It has long been a matter of surprise to Naturalists that no English Zoologist has considered it worth while to delineate accurately the *Oceanic Inhabitants of the Arctic Regions*—a portion of Natural History embracing not only subjects of the highest interest to the Philosopher, Theologian, and all lovers of the works of an Omnipotent and All-bountiful Creator, but, in fact, forming the wonders of the creation, inasmuch as some of these (the WHALE *genus* for example) are the most stupendous creatures which can possibly be conceived by human beings, who breathe the vital air in common with themselves, their offspring being brought forth, and during their earlier periods of existence nourished, in a similar manner to man and the higher order of animals by which he is surrounded, but whose residence is in an element where the latter would perish, from the habitation of the former being the vast and mighty deep. Yet, the published descriptions of these creatures are either intermixed with fabulous narrations or else they are too superficial in point of matter of fact, as is the case with those related in the Natural History of Count Buffon, Dr. Goldsmith's Animated Nature, and others too numerous here to mention.

Notwithstanding so much has been said in the above-mentioned publications, yet, strange to say, there is no

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work extant wherein the *Zoology of the Order Cetacea, and the Oceanic Inhabitants of the Arctic Regions*, is concisely and accurately described. The author having, in order to obtain the requisite materials for this work, visited the Greenland and adjacent seas in the year 1824, as principal surgeon of the ship *Neptune* of London, where he had numerous opportunities of observing these creatures, of which he availed himself; and has accordingly endeavoured to fill up this important *chasm* in Zoological Literature, by correctly detailing his own observations, combined with all that was accurate and valuable in the various authors who have written upon Zoology, or scattered in the various periodicals.

This work embraces a comprehensive account of the Natural History of every known animal inhabiting the Polar Seas, from the mighty Leviathan of the deep down to the almost invisible animalculæ; and from the circumstance of these dreary regions having been so recently visited by that intrepid and scientific navigator, Captain Ross, who has so much enriched our geographical knowledge of these bleak abodes, by his valuable and important discoveries; the author flatters himself, in consequence of this fact, that this hitherto neglected department of the Arctic Oceanic Zoology, will be perused with a greater degree of interest by his subscribers, than it might otherwise have possessed. The author has endeavoured to render the language easy and comprehensive (devoid of technical terms), but at the same time equally valuable to the practical Zoologist and the man of science, as it is interesting and instructive to the general reader.

Palmas qui meruit ferat is the motto, which was

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borne by the gallant Nelson, the immortal hero of the Nile and Trafalgar; and, having had the advantage of talented auxiliaries in the mechanical department of this work, I conceive that it is but an act of justice I am doing, when I state that the Frontispiece* and the Lithographic plates were drawn by my talented and ingenious pupil and friend, Mr. Frederick Sexton,† whose graphic illustrations, particularly of Sacred and Zoological Subjects, will shortly place him at the head of his profession. I am likewise indebted to him and my scientific friend and student, Mr. R. W. Keene, for many of the embellishments on wood, which have been drawn from my own designs and selections. The wood engravings were executed by Mr. John Berryman, of Gough Square, London. I have also to return my thanks to Mr. Sowerby and Mr. Loudon, the celebrated Zoologists, and to Mr. Limbird, the publisher of the Mirror, for the loan of several illustrations; likewise to Sir Arthur de Capell Brooke for much valuable information, which will be found mentioned in several parts of the volume. And lastly, to G. J. Guthrie, Esq., F.R.S., President of, and Professor of Anatomy and Surgery to, the Royal College of Surgeons, for many facilities I have obtained in the course of my Zoological Studies, and in the progress of this work, from the Hunterian Museum of that splendid establishment.

* The original drawing was presented me by my friend and pupil, R. W. Keene, Esq., who executed it from my own design, made in the Arctic Seas in 1824.

† This gentleman is connected with the Lithographic Establishment of Baron Friedel, in Greek Street, Soho Square, by whom the plates were printed.

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The Zoological arrangements of the *Asterias* or *Star Fishes* at page 279, should have been thus placed, and which the reader is requested to bear in mind when perusing Division IV., Radiata, that the following classification should have been placed as the head to those Astites. "Class I., Echinodermata. Order, Pedicellata. Genus, *Asterias*." This is in conformity with the arrangement of the Animal Kingdom by the late Baron Cuvier. The omission at the proper part of the work arose in consequence of a portion of the manuscript having been mislaid, and its loss was not discovered until too late to rectify it.

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