

nomenclature of European Botany and Zoology: but neither my inquiries, nor those of other Gentlemen, who have liberally communicated the information collected by them,* nor the previous researches of Sir William JONES, have yet discovered all the plants and animals, of which the names are mentioned by the Commentaries on the *Ameracôsha*; and even in regard to those which have been seen by us, a source of error remains in the inaccuracy of the Commentators themselves, as is proved by the circumstance of their frequent disagreement. It must be therefore understood, that the correspondence of the Sanscrit names with the generick and specifick names in Natural History is in many instances doubtful. When the uncertainty is great, it has usually been so expressed: but errors may exist where none have been apprehended.

It is necessary likewise to inform the reader that many of the plants, and some animals (especially fish), have not been described in any work yet published. Of such, the names have been taken from the manuscripts of Dr. ROXBURGH and Dr. F. BUCHANAN.

Having explained the plan and design of this edition of the *Ameracôsha*, I have only further to state, that the delay which has arisen since it was commenced (now more than five years) has been partly occasioned by my distance from the press (the work being printed by Mr. CAREY at Serampoor), and partly by avocations which have retarded the progress of collating the different copies of the text and commentaries: a task the labour of which may be judged by those who have been engaged in similar undertakings.

* Drs. Roxburgh, F. Buchanan and W. Hunter: and Mr. William Carey.

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