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The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

VOL. V.

July 1, 1831.

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BY GEORGE DON, F.L.S.

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PROSPECTUS.

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The necessary innovations which have taken place of late years in the nomenclature of Botany are of such a nature as to require that the alphabetical arrangement observed by Miller should be excluded from the new work; and in substituting for that arrangement the Natural System of Jussieu, the Editor anticipates that he will receive the concurrence of every scientific man. It is by this system alone, as contrasted with the methods of Miller and Linnæus, that the genera and species of plants can be conveniently displayed in one consistent view, according to their relations of affinity, and therefore of their properties. Such a plan, indeed, seems indispensable to a work which is intended to form a Complete System of Vegetables, and to prove, likewise, a judicious guide to the practical parts of Agriculture and Gardening.

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Genera, and Species of Plants with the explanatory drawings: the Accentuation, and Etymology of the various names: literal translations of the *trivial* names; also the English ones when they occur.

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3. The native countries, and (wherever they can be ascertained) the particular districts of those countries in which the various species are found respectively, with references for the names to the original authorities, and also to figures, wherever they have been published.

4. The date of the introduction of such plants as are grown in Great Britain, but which were not indigenous to it.

5. The habits of all those plants; the situation in the garden which they require; their cultivation in all its details; the height to which they usually grow; the period of their flowering; the colour of the flowers—in short, every particular connected with the history and cultivation of those plants, which is calculated to excite the slightest interest.

It has been, further, the care of the Editor to notice peculiarities, whenever they occur, in the physiology of the various species.

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The *Third Volume* gives those with their *stamens* inserted in the *corolla*.

The dissection of any flower will instantly declare the volume where its history and mode of cultivation may be found.

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The late PROFESSOR MARTYN, the learned and indefatigable Editor of the former Edition of MILLER'S GARDENER'S DICTIONARY, was well aware of the advantages of arranging that work in a systematic form, as the following extract from one of his Letters will prove :

" I think so entirely with you on the subject of arrangement, that if I were now to begin the work, it would certainly appear in the order of Linnaeus's System, with an alphabetical index, English and Latin ; but I was to build on Miller's foundation. I almost hope that somebody will knock Miller and me on the head hereafter by such a publication." See *Martyn's Memoirs*, by G. Gorham, B.D. 1830, p. 210.

DR. PULTENEY also, in a letter to PROFESSOR MARTYN, expresses the same opinion :

" I take in the Dictionary, and I can say with truth, that I stand amazed at the magnitude of your work, and the diligence and accuracy you have exhibited ; and again, I more and more lament, that it could not have been thrown into a *systematic form*, so as to have been a regular Botanical work." *Ibid.* p. 217.



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