

Friday Dec^r. 14th. 1810.

Conclusion.

- And with these reflections we close our Disquisitions on the works, & economy of Nature. —
— Whether we have fulfilled our intentions; or your expectations, as expressed in our Introd.^r Lecture, we know not.

Our 1st intention, was, if you recollect, to engrift knowledge on Curiosity, that fruitful shoot of a vigorous intellect.

Our 2^d intention was to engage the mind by pleasure, while we, at the same time, filled it with useful and chaste ideas. As few people can set down to a more dry & husky entertainment yr. the mere description of an animal, or vegetable, detached & isolated, from the system of w^c. we ourselves are a part, we have ∴ all along endeavoured to treat the works of creation, with a constant reference to their uses, their connexion, & relationship, with that immense machine of which we ourselves are a part.

We have kept the sentiments of the celebrated Lord Kames constantly in view, where in speaking on the subject of Education, he laments the general neglect of the study of the works of nature; w^c. besides being a source of infinite amusement, generates an habit of observation, w^c. says he, refines the feelings of young people, and prevents, in young men, idle & vicious propensities, & exalts the mind to the love of order, virtue, regularity, & rational entertainment; and he might have added, — inspires them with sentiments of mercy & tenderness towards all the animal creation.

Another

Another intention was to hold up such a view of the works of creation, as should excite a train of thinking, w^c. should have a constant reference & an unavoidable tendency to one Supreme intelligent author; from an idea that to make this the ruling & habitual sentiment in our minds, was to lay the foundation of all that was valuable in morality & in Religion: for it makes this visible world a Temple, & life itself one continued act of adoration!

Next to these great objects of our existence, was our Country.

Separated as the world appears to be, by seas, rivers, & discordant nations & languages, yet the merchant binds the whole world together by the golden chain of Commerce. Hence every production of nature w^c. contributes to this source of national greatness merits our attention. Hence it was that we held up Agriculture, on w^c. commerce depends, as the art, the great art w^c. every government out to ~~make~~ encourage, & every enquirer into Nature to improve. On this account, we dwelt so particularly on the anatomy of a plant, & on the laws of its growth, & on the principles of Agriculture.

It is impossible, in the nature of things, & from the diversity of tastes, that every subject of which we have treated, should be equally entertaining to all.

I never had the presumption to expect to keep up an unwearyed attention through so long a course of Lectures, yet such has been the attention, with w^c. I have been honored that

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I have written & delivered six more lectures of I originally intended. You may doubtless have remarked that we did not adhere strictly to the order of our printed heads. This was owing to the matter of one lecture growing out of the subject of ~~another~~, & w^c could not be foreseen when the heads were composed: for I did not at that time know certainly that I should be honored with the company of the Ladies; w^c pleasing circumstance induced me to add somethings & retrench others. Some of the Lectures on plants, & all ^{but} one on Insects, were entirely new, w^c might be perceived in the delivery of them.

It is probable, if we meet with encouragement, that we shall give this course of lectures, with some variation in the Quenline, in abt. a fortnight from this time, i.e. abt. the time of the College vacation, in order to give the members of it, an opportunity of attending —

It only remains that I return you my thanks for the attention w^t. w^c you have honored me: and I shall be gratified indeed, if these few trifling extracts we have given you from the great Volume of Nature, should induce you to study the Sublime original.

A Lecture for the Gentlemen, on Monday
10 o'clock N^o 49. Marlborough St. —

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