

1899

OBSERVATIONS

MADE DURING A

VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD,

O N

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY,

NATURAL HISTORY,

A N D

ETHIC PHILOSOPHY.

- E S P E C I A L L Y O N
1. THE EARTH AND ITS STRATA,
 2. WATER AND THE OCEAN,
 3. THE ATMOSPHERE,
 4. THE CHANGES OF THE GLOBE,
 5. ORGANIC BODIES, AND
 6. THE HUMAN SPECIES.

By JOHN REINOLD FORSTER, LL.D. F. R. S. and S. A.
AND A MEMBER OF SEVERAL LEARNED ACADEMIES IN EUROPE.

TOTUM IGITUR ILLUD PHILOSOPHÆ STUDIUM, MIHI QUIDEM IPSE SUMO, & AD VITÆ
CONSUEUDINEM & CONSTANTIAM QUANTUM POSSUM & AD DELECTATIONEM ANIMI: NEC ULLUM
ARBITROR AUT MAJUS AUT MELIUS A DIIS DATUM MUNUS HOMINI.

M. Tullius Cicero, Acad. Quest. lib. i.

L O N D O N:

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I. NUMBER OF SPECIES.

VEGE-
TABLE
KINGDOM.

FROM what has been said, it appears, that the rigorous frost in the antarctic regions almost precludes the germination of plants; that the countries in the temperate zones, being chiefly uncultivated, produce a variety of plants, which only want the assistance of art to confine them within proper bounds; and lastly, that the tropical isles derive a luxuriance of vegetation from the advantage of climate and culture. But the number of vegetables is likewise commonly proportioned to the extent of the country. Continents have therefore, at all times, been remarkable for their immense botanical treasures; and, among the rest, that of New-Holland, so lately examined by Messrs. BANKS and SOLANDER, rewarded their labors so plentifully, that one of its harbors obtained a name suitable to this circumstance, (Botany Bay.) Islands only produce a greater or less number of species, as their circumference is more or less extensive. In this point of view, I think both New-Zeeland and the tropical isles rich in vegetable productions. It would be difficult to determine the number in the first with any degree of precision, from the little opportunities we had of examining its riches: our acquisitions of new species from thence amount to 120 and upwards; the known ones, recorded already in the works of Linnæus, are only six, and consequently bear a trifling proportion