

## ADVERTISEMENT.<sup>1</sup>

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THE general design of the following sheets is to enlist Imagination under the banner of Science, and to lead her votaries from the looser analogies, which dress out the imagery of poetry, to the stricter ones, which form the ratiocination of philosophy. While their particular design is to induce the ingenious to cultivate the knowledge of BOTANY; by introducing them to the vestibule of that delightful science, and recommending to their attention the immortal works of the Swedish Naturalist LINNEUS.

In the first Poem, or Economy of Vegetation, the physiology of Plants is delivered; and the operation of the Elements, as far as they may be supposed to affect the growth of Vegetables. But the publication of this part is deferred to another year, for the purpose of repeating some experiments on vegetation, mentioned in the notes. In the second poem, or LOVES OF THE PLANTS, which is here presented to the Reader, the Sexual System of LINNEUS is explained, with the remarkable properties of many particular plants.

The author has withheld this work, (excepting a few pages)<sup>2</sup> many years from the press, according to the rule of Horace,<sup>3</sup> hoping to have rendered it more worthy the acceptance of the public,—but finds at length, that he is less able, from disuse, to correct the poetry; and, from want of leisure, to amplify the annotations.

In this second edition,<sup>4</sup> the plants Amaryllis, Orchis, and Cannabis [and Ocyumum<sup>5</sup>] are inserted with two additional prints of flowers; some alterations are made in Gloriosa, and Tulipa; and the description of the Saltmines in Poland is removed to the first poem on the Economy of Vegetation.

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<sup>1</sup> In 1791, 1794 and 1799, the Advertisement is moved to the beginning of Part I of *The Botanic Garden: The Economy of Vegetation*. Only the first two paragraphs are included there, and in the second paragraph, “But [...] notes.” and “which [...] Reader” are deleted.

<sup>2</sup> An earlier version of *LOTP* III:51–78 on *The Nightmare* (1782) by Henry Fuseli (1741–1825) appeared anonymously in *The Universal Magazine of Knowledge and Pleasure* Vol. 71 (September 1782): p. 165, and its first four lines were printed as a caption to a 1783 print reproduction of the painting (see *LOTP* III:51 editor’s note, and Appendix 1.3). The poem by Anna Seward (1742–1809), “Verses Written in Dr. Darwin’s Botanical Garden near Lichfield,” that in an altered form became the opening lines of *The Economy of Vegetation* (I:1–58), was previously published (with lines added by ED, and

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without Seward's knowledge, though appearing under her name) in *The Gentleman's Magazine* Vol. 53 (May 1783): p. 428. Among the lines Seward says Darwin added are a version of *LOTP* I:7–10. See Appendix 4. Parts of ED's note to *LOTP* IV:175, on "the natural history of the Buxton and Matlock waters," are from a 5 February 1788 letter to James Pilkington (1752?–1804), which was published in Pilkington's *Of the Present State of Derbyshire* (1789), Vol. 1, pp. 256–75.

<sup>3</sup> Horace (65–8 BCE), Roman writer. In *Ars Poetica* (lines 386–90) he advises his addressee, "si quid tamen olim / scripseris, in Maeci descendat iudicis auris / et patris et nostras, nonumque prematur in annum, / membranis intus positis: delere licebit / quod non edideris ; nescit vox missa reverti"; "Yet if ever you do write anything, let it enter the ears of some critical Maecius [i.e., Maecius Tarpa, a literary authority], and your father's, and my own; then put your parchment in the closet and keep it back till the ninth year. What you have not published you can destroy; the word once sent forth can never come back" (trans. H. Rushton Fairclough, Loeb Classical Library).

<sup>4</sup> This paragraph only appears in 1790.

<sup>5</sup> Corrected as indicated in the Errata.