

Dedicated, by Permission, to Her Majesty the Queen.

ZOOLOGICAL SKETCHES

BY

JOSEPH WOLF.

MADE FOR

The Zoological Society of London,

FROM ANIMALS IN THEIR VIVARIUM.

Edited, with Notes,

BY

D. W. MITCHELL, B.A., F.L.S., &c. &c.,

SECRETARY TO THE SOCIETY.

THE series of Drawings, of which it is proposed to give a selection of Fifty in the present Work, has been undertaken with the object of preserving a faithful record of the living character of the most rare and interesting Animals, which have appeared, or may appear, in the Vivarium of the Zoological Society of London.

The present extent of the Society's Collection, and the prospects of increase derived from the energetic support which it continues to receive from so many sources, afford unequalled means of making these Zoological Portraits both various and instructive. In selecting the subjects, particular regard will be had to those species which exhibit aptitude for acclimation, either as objects of economic value, or simply as additions to the number of Exotic Animals which are now so frequently seen in the Parks, and on the ornamental waters of Europe.

Such a work appears to be particularly acceptable at the present time, when the impulse given to this pursuit by the labours of the late Earl of Derby—unfortunately cut short by his death at the very moment when they were ripening into the most gratifying success—has received new vigour from the foundation and rapid progress of the Imperial Zoological Society of Acclimatation in France. This Institution not only receives the direct countenance of the Government, but has established branches in several of the Departments of France, and is supported by many of the most influential proprietors throughout the country, from the combination of whose efforts the most encouraging results must be anticipated.

The Drawings have been executed in Water Colours, after most careful study, by MR. WOLF, who may be fairly said to stand alone in minute knowledge of the habits and form of Mammalia as well as of Birds; and the lithographic copies, partly printed in colour and then finished by hand, are in such exact fac-simile as to be scarcely distinguishable from the originals. They are mounted in such a manner that they may ultimately either be bound into a volume, or retained in the portfolio which will be given gratuitously, with the first part, to every subscriber.

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