
AN EPITOME OF AFRICAN ZOOLOGY;
OR,
A CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF THE OBJECTS
OF
THE ANIMAL KINGDOM INHABITING AFRICA,
ITS ISLANDS AND SEAS :

By A. SMITH, M.D. M.W.S. &c.

At the Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Council of the SOUTH AFRICAN LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION, on Wednesday, 7th August 1833, it was resolved,—“ That, in order to promote the study of Natural History in this country, and an acquaintance generally with its productions, Dr. SMITH be requested to draw up an Epitome of the Zoology of Africa from his personal Observations and Researches, or from such other sources of Information as may here be available for that purpose.”

The want of something like that suggested in the Resolution just quoted has long been experienced, and nothing but the absence of proper means for such a purpose has hitherto prevented me from attempting to furnish it. Much information is doubtless to be obtained from the various systematic works on Zoology, but in them it is so mixed and scattered that but few individuals here would have either patience or leisure to search out that which actually belongs to this quarter.

Under such circumstances the only step that could be resorted to with a prospect of remedying or rather lessening the existing evil, is that which has been recommended, namely—the bringing together into a small and connected form all that is within our reach, under a hope that those enjoying more extensive opportunities will be inclined to supply the deficiencies. This I have endeavoured to accomplish, and though the compilation will not furnish a complete list and description of the objects of the animal kingdom which inhabit Africa, yet it will go farther towards that than any single work yet produced. The details which relate to South Africa will be found tolerably complete, having been supplied from personal observation, whilst those which refer to other parts will be found more deficient, having been collected from limited and inefficient sources of information.