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Annals of natural history

London, R. and J.E. Taylor,

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existing, and in some degree still continuing, in our knowledge of this higher class of living beings.

Scotland being almost in every part an alpine country, and abounding in large rivers and innumerable mountain streams, with lochs in an equal proportion and variety, affords an ample field for the illustration of this group. This great characteristic mark of its freshwaters, and opportunities having occurred here more frequently for the examination of the various species, and their habits, than in the other parts of Great Britain or Ireland, induces the author to restrict the work, and give the illustration of this range of country complete in itself. At the same time, with a few exceptions, all the British species will be represented; and it is proposed, if a moderate success attend the publication of this work, that two additional Fasciculi shall be devoted to the illustration of those species and varieties of England and Ireland, which do not occur in the sister kingdom.

The illustrations will be published in Fasciculi of six plates each. The first will be ready for delivery to Subscribers in November, and will contain figures of, 1. *S. Salar*, young or *Gilse*; 2. *Do. do.* variety; 3. *S. albus* of Fleming, or Herling of the Solway; 4. *S. ferox*; 5. *S. fario*, lacustrine varieties; 6. *Coregonus Willughbii* or Lochmaben coregonus. The volume of descriptive letter-press will be printed in an octavo size, and will be published on the completion of the illustrations. In this will be detailed, as far as possible, the natural history of the family, and it will be accompanied with numerous plates and wood-cuts, illustrating the parts connected with the external characters, scaling, structure, food, parasites, &c.

Information is earnestly requested on any subject connected with the above work, to be addressed to Jardine Hall, by Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.

Intended to be published by Subscription, in One Volume, demy 8vo, *Monographia Anoplurorum Britanniae; or an Essay on the British Species of Parasitic Insects belonging to the order Anoplura of Leach.* By Henry Denny, Esq.

The object of the present Monograph is to combine in one volume highly magnified figures and descriptions of all the species of parasitic insects belonging to the families *Pediculidæ* and *Nirmidæ*, found in Great Britain, "many of the individuals of which being the companions and consequence of poverty and filth, are regarded in general rather as objects of disgust than of attraction: from this cause and perhaps too from their minuteness, these insects have hitherto excited less attention amongst naturalists than their singular

and beautiful forms and structure deserve." The importance, however, of illustrating this tribe will be evident when it is stated that almost every species of quadruped and bird has its peculiar parasite, and many of them are infested by two, three, or even five distinct species—that these offer so great a diversity of colour, form, and habits, that none but an entomologist would recognise the family to which they belong from any analogy they bear to the more familiar examples. Notwithstanding the number of individuals continually offering themselves to the observer of nature, it is no less strange than true there is no one book to which he can refer for the purpose of naming them. It must not, however, be inferred from this that the subject has been wholly neglected by men of science, for so early as 1688 forty species were figured and described by Redi, since which we find the illustrious names of Linnæus, Geoffroy, De Geer, Scopoli, Schranke, Fabricius, Albin, Latreille, Hermann, Olfers, Lyonet, Panzer, Leach, Nitzsch, and Children, assisting to elucidate this group. But as the labours of many of these naturalists are difficult to come at, and several when procured give little more than a catalogue of names, without figures or reference to description, few can avail themselves of the benefit they offer. The work will form a concise concentration of the information already possessed, with original figures, drawn and coloured after nature, and will undoubtedly be a valuable addition to the entomological literature of this country.

Mr. Denny will feel greatly obliged by the transmission of examples of the different species of *Pediculidæ* and *Nirmidæ* from the following quadrupeds and birds :—

Fox. Otter. Polecat. Weasel. Squirrel. Hedgehog. Mouse. Rat. Shrews. Mole. Dormouse. Guinea Pig. Hare. Seal. Wild Cat. Bats. Pine Martin. Goat.

Kite. Goshawk. Kestrel. Eagle. Owl. Little Owl. Roller. Nutcracker. Creeper. Wren. Long-tailed Titmouse. Goldfinch. Pine Grossbeak. Redstart. Redbreast. Ringouzel. Dipper. Pratincole. Bittern. Crane. Night Heron. Ibis. Bustard. Little Bustard. Northern Diver. Black Stork. Quail. Hawfinch.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

April 12th, 1838.—Robert Maughan, Esq., Member of the Wernerian Society, in the Chair.

Mr. Forbes read a paper on the specific claims of *Primula acaulis*,