



NATURAL HISTORY,

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR,

BY THE

COUNT DE BUFFON.

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH,

ILLUSTRATED

WITH ABOVE THREE HUNDRED COPPER-PLATES,

AND OCCASIONAL

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS,

By WILLIAM SMELLIE,

MEMBER OF THE ANTIQUARIAN AND ROYAL
SOCIETIES OF EDINBURGH.

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NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE

MINERAL KINGDOM

OF FRANCE

BY

M. DE BUFFON

PARIS

1749

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PARIS

TO THE

COUNT DE BUFFON,

&c. &c. &c.

S I R,

YOU did me honour by permitting me to address to you my Translation of your illustrious work ; and I am proud to exercise the privilege you so politely conferred upon me. The important Information it contains, and the Eloquence of its composition, joined to the Ingenuity, Taste, and Erudition, with which it abounds, induced me to

9/11

think that a Version of it into the English language, by diffusing the knowledge of Nature, would increase the number of her admirers. The task, it must be acknowledged, was arduous; but your approbation and encouragement, by redoubling my vigour, diminished the difficulty of the labour.

It was with the liveliest pleasure that I received your communications respecting the valuable Performances you have already published, and concerning those great undertakings which now engage your attention. I failed not to announce to your friends in this country the advantages which Science and Literature have yet to expect from you; and I need hardly observe, that their wishes and my own, for the accomplishment of your purposes, are in proportion to the greatness of your talents.

The

The success which the Translation has met with, I impute to the celebrity of your name, and to the high value of the original.

I have the honour to be, with the most entire respect,

S I R,

Your most obedient, and

Most humble servant,

EDINBURGH,
May 10, 1781.

WILLIAM SMELLIE.