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DIRECTIONS to the BINDER.

Place the Head fronting the title page.

Plate I. between page 154 and page 155.

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P R E F A C E,

BY THE TRANSLATOR.

NATURAL HISTORY is the most extensive, and perhaps the most instructive and entertaining of all the sciences. It is the chief source from which human knowledge is derived. To recommend the study of it from motives of utility, were to affront the understanding of mankind. Its importance, accordingly, in the arts of life, and in storing the mind with just ideas of external objects, as well as of their relations to the human race, was early perceived by all nations in their progress from rudeness to refinement.

But, notwithstanding the great advantages to be derived from the knowledge of Nature, Aristotle is the only ancient writer on ZOOLOGY who merits attention. Instead of retailing fictions, or facts founded upon ignorance and credulity, he investigated the relations and differences which connect and distinguish the various tribes of animals. What had been only a chaos of detached, uncertain, and often fabulous, narrations and descriptions, he reduced into a scientific form, with a success so amazing, that, to this hour,