

PREFACE

TO THE SECOND VOLUME.

IN demonstrating the Plants which occur in our annual herborizing excursions, I have found it necessary to put into the hands of my pupils some Manual of Botany; and in so doing I have found all that have yet been published, deficient in one or two essential points, and particularly as relating to the uses to which each plant is adapted; without which, although the charms of Flora are in themselves truly delightful, yet the real value of Botanic knowledge is lost. The study of plants, so far as regards their uses and culture, has engaged my particular attention for the last twenty-five years, during which time I had the honour of conducting a series of experiments on the growth of plants, for the Board of Agriculture, which gave me an opportunity of ascertaining many facts relative to our Grasses, &c. an account of which, I have had some time ready for publication. The necessity of a work of this kind in my present profession, has therefore induced me to abridge it and put it to press; as such I offer it to the Public. To the Subscribers to my Botanic Garden this will also prove of great service; it being intended to arrange the plants in their several departments, so as to make it a general work of reference both in the fields or garden. In the department

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which treats of the Vegetables used for medical purposes, I have given as ample descriptions as the nature of the work will admit of, having in view the very necessary obligation which the younger branch of that profession are under, of paying attention to the subject.

In prosecuting this work, I have been more actuated by a desire to render to my pupils and others, useful information, than that of commencing Author on such a subject; and as writing for the press has been but very little my employment, I trust that an ample excuse will be granted for any errors that may appear, or for the want of that happiness of diction with which more able and accomplished Authors may be endowed.

BOTANIC GARDEN,
Sloane Street, May 1816.