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F.W. Hope

The Auto-Biography of John Christian

Fabricius.

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THE
AUTO-BIOGRAPHY
OF
JOHN CHRISTIAN FABRICIUS,

Translated from the Danish,

WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS,

BY

THE REV. F. W. HOPE, A.M., F.R.S.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.*

I WAS born in Tondern, in the dukedom of Schleswig, on the 7th of January, 1745. My father, John Christian Fabricius, was the physician appointed by government for that city and its county; my mother's name was Anne Henningsen; an elder brother and myself were the only children they had. My father educated us in a spirit of liberality and freedom which was uncommon in those days. He gave us small horses and guns as soon as we were able to mount a horse and fire a gun. He himself taught us both to play cricket and ninepins, as well as many other games, and it was his great desire that we should have constant exercise, particularly in the open air. To this continued activity in early life I may possibly ascribe my strong constitution and capability of enduring bodily fatigue. In the year 1754, he inoculated us (which proved very successful), which is only remarkable, as we were the first

* Meeting by accident with a portrait and biography of Fabricius in the Danish language, I compared it with Monsieur Latreille's biographical notice, published in the 11th volume of the *Annales du Museum*, and as there are some inaccuracies in the latter work (for instance, Latreille's giving the date of his birth in 1742, whilst the former work mentions 1745), I thought it right to examine the life more closely, and having translated it, now present it to the reader in an English dress with the portrait of Fabricius, copied from one engraved by G. L. Lahde, court engraver at Copenhagen. The only notice of the above illustrious entomologist, to be found in the English works of my acquaintance, occurs in Mr. Swainson's *Taxidermy*, published in 1840. He appears to have copied some of the errors of Latreille, and, at the conclusion of his remarks, asserts that if Fabricius wrote his own biography, it has unfortunately never been published; the life now produced is, I think, that alluded to by Latreille, and therefore he was right in his intimation and Mr. Swainson wrong; both of the memoirs, however, are well worthy of perusal, and it is highly gratifying to find the naturalists of the two rival countries united in one common object, that of honouring the memory of the celebrated Fabricius.—F. W. H.

(if not in the whole country, at least) in the dukedom on whom inoculation was tried. My father not only bestowed pains on our physical education, but also on the instruction of our minds. He always kept a tutor for us, to whom, especially the last (the present pastor Thomsen, in Sorup), we are indebted for our moral culture. We also obtained as much instruction in drawing, dancing and music as circumstances, in so small a town as Tondern, would permit. On me all this methodical instruction was lost. My volatile disposition had no taste for the dry study of languages and circumscribed manner of teaching; but I found in my father's library, which was not small, and to which we had free access, an old herbarium in four volumes, which he had collected in his youth and in which Tournefort's botanical names were inscribed. He allowed us to do with them whatever we pleased. We cut out the plants, and it gave us no small pleasure when we were able to define one or other of them according to the "Species Plantarum" of Linnæus. We also collected plants and insects in the neighbourhood, and we studied the "Species Plantarum" and "Philosophia Botanica" far more diligently than Cornelius Nepos or Cicero. I also found pleasure in reading, and when I was fourteen or fifteen years old I made an extensive analysis of Pontoppidan's Natural History of Norway, a work which I at that time highly esteemed. In the year 1761, as my father was appointed physician to Frederick's Hospital in Copenhagen, he sent me to the high school at Altona to be prepared for college. There Professor Profe was my teacher in the elements of practical mathematics, and Mr. Henrici in Latin composition. In the year 1762, I went to Copenhagen, where I was received as a fellow of the college of students. In the autumn of the same year my good father granted me the fervent desire of my heart, and sent me, accompanied by Mr. Zoega, to Upsal. I remained there two years; this was the most important period of my life, in which the foundation of my "*future destiny appears to have been laid*," as well as the bias of my mind. I always look back to that period with great delight and warm feelings of gratitude towards my great master, Linnæus, who was to us like a father, and it was quite *natural*, from the high regard which we had for his merits and the great freedom and unreservedness which he permitted in our intercourse with him, that our young hearts should be warmly and fervently attached to him. We saw and heard him only. In winter we lived in town close by him, and in the summer we followed him into the country that we might the more freely enjoy the benefit of his instruction and intercourse. We and the American Kuhn were

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1764

the only foreigners (the Russians excepted), and the zeal with which we pursued *his* science, united to the gratitude wherewith we received his instructions, pleased him very much. It was our intention also to have attended the lectures of Wallerius on Mineralogy and Chemistry, but it was not fulfilled, not because his lectures were not useful, but because he was not on friendly terms with Linnæus. Linnæus never uttered to us a word against Wallerius, but as we had read his writings against Linnæus, we of our own accord gave the above proof that we for his sake alone had come to Upsal. Linnæus in his lectures understood the art of encouraging youth in the study of science, and in his intercourse and conversation he was inexhaustible in all kinds of anecdotes and observations. He visited us daily both in the country and in town, and enriched our minds during several hours of delightful instruction, which was to him a recreation while speaking to us on his favourite science, botany. He properly laid the foundation of our knowledge, and imprinted on our minds the systematic order with which the study of the sciences ought to be pursued, and that accuracy of expression which so peculiarly distinguishes the Linnæan school;—Zoega devoted himself to the study of the various kinds of mosses, I to that of insects, and Linnæus always rejoiced when we brought him anything new, or when he could communicate to us some new information on those subjects. Revered and cherished will his memory ever be by me.

In Upsal I also formed a friendship with the pupils of Linnæus, who were there at that time, namely, Thunberg, Falk, Ferber and others. In the year 1764, I returned to Copenhagen, where I remained during the winter. Here I had friendly intercourse, particularly with Professor Oeder, an apothecary, with Mr. Cappel, and other persons who lived with us in the hospital. I did not regularly attend any lectures that winter, but I laid the first foundation of my "*Systema Insectorum*;" I compiled the "*Genera Insectorum*" in accordance with the small collection which I then possessed, and I was also so fortunate as to be enabled, through the kindness of Ascanius, to investigate and determine the insects after Forskaal. I established the Orismology of Entomology, introduced stable genera, and endeavoured to identify species without the aid of colours, an experiment which I afterwards, with a much greater number of insects, was obliged to abandon. My revered father, who was too good either to disturb me in my labours (which I with great zeal had engaged in), or to insist on my in any way following out his ideas, was however not without anxiety with regard to my future preferment and prosperity. He endeavoured

therefore, at this period, to obtain the promise of Count Moltke of an appointment (as Professor of *Œconomics* at the Natural History Theatre of Charlottenburg*) which was still vacant after the death of Holms, but did not succeed. In the year 1765, I went to Leipzig to hear the lectures of Professor Schreber on *Œconomics*, which was to be my proper department. My brother went at the same time to Leyden, where Siegfried Albin was at that time teaching anatomy with great eclat. I must here remark that although our father was not rich, he never allowed us on our travels to be in want of money. We had everywhere open letters of credit and in reality spent not a little, but notwithstanding his circumstances, he never would ask for any kind of assistance or stipend for his sons, which scarcely could have been refused to an individual who was so highly esteemed and beloved in Copenhagen.

Professor Schreber lectured on *Œconomics* after Dithmar's first principles. I attended diligently and profitably, although the arrangement was on the whole only approved of by few. I also entered into a friendship with his son, the present Hofraad Schreber in Erlangen, and joined with pleasure in his botanical excursions. I did not attend any other lectures, but was zealously engaged with my *Entomologia*, and in collecting the plants and insects of the neighbourhood; I also obtained some from the Waltherste garden and the collection of Mr. Schreber, who afterwards presented me with his entire collection of insects. In the evenings I went to the theatre or visited Professor Ludwig, although I could gather from our botanical conversation that he did not approve of my being so warm an adherent of Linnæus. In the vacation, at the time of the Leipzig fair, I visited Freyberg and Dresden. In Dresden, I made an acquaintance with the Inspector of the Natural History Cabinet of the Elector, and Mr. Birnhahn, who possessed a most extraordinary tact of discerning different minerals, merely from their external appearance. He invited me to take up my abode with him the following summer, when he would instruct me how to know the different minerals from the specimens, and also take me to the Saxon Erz Mountains. I thankfully accepted his offer; and thus I visited in his company, almost every day, the collections, and travelled with him almost to every one of the Saxon mining districts. I thereby acquired a tolerably acute eye, and a remarkable quickness, by the outward inspection of the minerals, of discerning with exactness their different kinds; this

* Probably, as we should say in England, "Professor of Natural History and Rural *Œconomy*."

knowledge, however, was limited to those species of which I had an opportunity of seeing specimens, but my acquirement was by no means systematic. He also procured for me a considerable collection of Saxon minerals, especially the different kinds of cobalt, which I sent to Copenhagen. In the autumn of 1766, I went to Leyden, where I heard the lectures of Gaubius on Chemistry and those of Allemand on Natural Philosophy. I was diligently occupied in visiting the collections of Gronovius and Allemand, to which I had entrance at all times; I also went to Amsterdam, the Hague and Delft, where I examined and described the several collections of insects to which I was able to obtain access. In Leyden I also began to arrange my æconomical remarks, and made here the first sketch of my intended lectures on the first principles of the æconomical sciences, that I might have a fixed method into which I could introduce my further remarks. In the spring of the year 1767, I went by sea from Amsterdam to Edinburgh, where I again found my brother, who was esteemed by his teachers and favoured by the inhabitants of that city. He introduced me to the heroes of medical science, and he soon procured me the important acquaintance of Cullen, Gregory, Young and Hope, with whom we spent many evenings in scientific conversation; I did not however remain long in Edinburgh, but as soon as I had in some degree acquired the language, I bought myself a horse and travelled with Dr. De la Roche through the Highlands of Scotland. The letters of introduction which we received from Edinburgh procured us everywhere a kind reception; we visited many different parts of the country and saw all that was remarkable; we gathered plants and insects, and of all of them I kept a very particular journal. In the month of August we returned to Edinburgh, where my brother meanwhile had taken his degree, and in the beginning of September we went in company with him on horseback through the western parts of England to London. We were provided with letters of introduction and with addresses to persons in every town. We visited the Scottish lead mines at Leadhills, Whitehaven and the coal mines in that locality, Liverpool, Bath, Derby, Oxford, and all the different spots about those places, and I continued my journal which I had commenced in Scotland. At the end of the month of November we at last arrived in London, where we sold our horses, however with some loss. In London I had the good fortune, immediately after our arrival, to form an intimate acquaintance with Dr. Solander. The science which we cultivated,—our unanimity of thought with regard to it, as we both were of the same school,—our mutual teacher,—our mutual

friends in Upsal, of whom we could converse,—all served to form bonds of union. Solander was at that time located at the British Museum. As a learned man he was respected and liked in society for his wit and cheerfulness. In the forenoon we were daily engaged in the Museum; we dined together, and passed our evenings in a cheerful circle of acquaintances. To him I am indebted as well for the benefit as the pleasure I enjoyed during my stay in England. He introduced me to the scientific clubs, and procured me acquaintance and connection with all the learned persons in our department, viz. Banks, the two Hunters, Fordyce, Lee, Drury, Lady Ann Monson, Eaton, Fothergil, Webb, Ellis, Pennant, Greville, and many others, whose houses and libraries and collections were soon opened to me. I determined and described the insects, and arranged the species of the collections. My "*System of Insects*" gained ground considerably, as well by the more exact definition of the species, as by the addition of a considerable number of genera. My collections of insects were greatly increased; I sent them to Copenhagen, where Zoega arranged and preserved them. In January, 1768, my father, through the assistance of Mr. Schumacher, (who was then secretary of the cabinet,) procured for me the Professorship of Economy of the Natural History Theatre of Charlottenburg, with the permission that I might still travel two years more. I could not, according to the arrangement at that period, have desired a more agreeable place, but I never obtained the actual possession of it. The above appointment was very pleasing to me on account of my revered father, whom it delighted much, and also comforted in regard to my future prospects.

1768 The greatest part of the year 1768 I remained in London. In the month of June Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander went on their expedition round the earth with Captain Cook; it made London appear to me as if it were empty. In the spring, as long as the ship remained in the Thames, we visited it frequently to arrange all things for the best, and in the most convenient manner. At the end of the year, although unwillingly, I at last left London and went to Paris; but I had become too much of an Englishman to be able to relish France, much less Paris. I was, however, received with great kindness by Geoffroy, (well known for his "*Histoire des Insectes autour de Paris*,"") as well as by Duhamel de Monceau, D'Aubenton, Jussieu, Thouin and Guettard. I also described at the house of Mandouet some insects from Cayenne, which were quite new to me; still I was inconsiderate enough to despise every thing because it was not English. My foolish discontent increased daily; and as I from my childhood had been

accustomed to indulge my fancies, I left Paris as early as December, 1768 and travelled by Lyons, Nismes, Montpellier, Marseilles, Antibes, to Italy; and then proceeded by Nice, Cone, Turin, Milan, Verona and Padua, to Venice. On this journey also I noted down every thing which appeared to me worthy of remark. Although, owing to our tour being suddenly determined on, I obtained no letters of introduction, I yet formed many interesting acquaintances. In Nismes I met with Seguier, and more particularly at Turin the celebrated naturalist Allioni, who not only received me in the most friendly manner, but also continued to afford me many tokens of kindness; and it is to him especially that I am indebted for my acquaintance with the Italian Fauna and Flora. At Padua I became acquainted with Marsegli, Vallisneri and Arduini; and in Venice with the family of Mozenigo, with Fortis and others; I also visited various manufactories and institutions for which Venice is so very remarkable. From Venice I made a short trip to Bologna, to examine the Aldrovandine Collection, and although I there formed an acquaintance with Bassi and Monti, I did not remain long in Italy. Very early in the spring I went by Laybach to Idria, partly to see the quicksilver mines which are there, and partly to get acquainted with Scopoli, who at that time was one of the first entomologists living. From Idria I crossed the Tyrolean mountains, visited Inspruck, Halle, Swatz, and passed through Munich, Regensburg and Stutgard, to Tubingen. At this place I remained some time with my academical friend Dr. Plouquet; and made from thence an excursion on horseback through the mountainous districts of Wurtenburg and Furstenburg, where I collected many minerals.

From Tubingen I travelled through part of Switzerland to Strasburg, formed many new acquaintances, admired the splendid scenery, and visited some fine collections. I was very well received at Strasburg, and formed an intimacy with Spielman, Herman, Ehrman, and Major Dietrichs (who afterwards was so unfortunate), and with other learned men in my department. After remaining some weeks there, I travelled by Zweybrucken Meissenheim, the Saxon Hartz mountains, to Hainburgh, and returned at last, at the end of autumn, to Copenhagen.

I entertained the hope immediately on my return of entering on my professorship, and of taking possession of the dwelling of Charlottenburg, which had been allotted me as my appointment, but I was disappointed. Circumstances had greatly altered,—Struensee had adopted a principle (which in itself is right enough), that everything pertaining to education and instruction should be

united with the academy. Bishop Gunnerus was summoned to Copenhagen to make new regulations for the academy, where I also was to have had an appointment. In the summer of 1779, I travelled through the dukedoms of Schleswig and Holstein, and kept an accurate journal of all that was worthy of observation; for I thought that, as public teacher of Economy, I ought especially to have a thorough knowledge of my native country. In the winter after my return I commenced lectures on the science of political economy. My lectures gained considerable approbation, but my hearers were few. In the summer of 1771, in consequence of an order from the government, the Natural History Theatre of Charlottenburg was entirely abolished. Peder took the department of finance, Ascanius had the mining district of Norway, both with considerable increase of salary; and to me it was stated that (by the new regulations of the academy) I should be so provided for that I should be perfectly satisfied. Gunnerus, who was acquainted with and loved natural history, desired my welfare. He once proposed to me to appoint me to the academy which he hoped to institute in Norway; and as soon as he was obliged to abandon that project, he recommended me to a similar situation, when the new regulations in Copenhagen were to take place, giving me the assurance of having every reason to be pleased therewith. But these proposed alterations in the Academy of Copenhagen were never accomplished. The 17th of January put an end to my hopes; Gunnerus returned to Drontheim, the academy remained as it was, and I was there appointed as professor extraordinary, with 400 rix dollars as a salary. In 1772 I published my first work, namely, "*Anfangsgrunde der Oeconomischen Wissenschaften, zum Gebrauch Academischer Vorlesungen.*"* In 1784 a second edition was published, with additions and improvements. It answers its intention, and contains in a systematic order merely concise principles, which a teacher in his lectures has sufficient opportunity of dilating on. From 1772 to 1775 I spent the winters in Copenhagen, and the summers in London. My friends Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander had returned from their voyage round the world, and had brought with them innumerable specimens of natural history and insects. I now lived very pleasantly. With Banks, Hunter and Drury, I found plenty of objects to engage my time, and every thing which could possibly be of service to me. My situation was not only very delightful, but it afforded the means of gaining much instruction. In 1775, at Easter, during

* "*Elements of the Economical Sciences, for the use of Academical Lectures.*"

the great fair at Leipsig, my "*Systema Entomologiæ*" appeared. Entomology was at that period in its infancy. We had then only the *Systema* of Linnæus, whose classification, derived from the wings of insects, was not the most natural, and his species were very imperfectly defined. Moreover, it contained but few species, as the great founder of that system was fully aware that the science would make little progress by a compilation of an inadequate number of species; the amount of genera also described by him was not great. In my *System* I made use of the organs of manducation as marks of distinction for my classes and species, and in spite of all its faults, which arose from the smallness of those parts, my classes were far more natural, my species were more numerous and more ably defined, and the number of described genera considerably greater. I at the same time extended the *Orismology*, fixed its significations with greater accuracy, and introduced the concise language of the Linnæan school in this department of natural history.

It soon obtained approbation in spite of all the objections made to it with regard to the smallness of those organs, and the greater part of the entomologists of Europe followed my system. In this year my situation was entirely changed,—I had the misfortune to lose my revered father whilst I was in London, who had always kindly assisted me. In the year 1771 I had married the daughter of Cancelliernad Ambrosius of Flensburg, and had two sons. I soon became aware that the little I inherited, added to my small salary, was not sufficient to maintain me in Copenhagen, and I found myself compelled (although unwillingly) to accept an offer made me by Ganzler Cramer, of the Professorship of Natural History, Economy and Finance, at Kiel, with a salary of 650 rix dollars.

The curator and the tutors of the academy, as well as the inhabitants of the city, received me with kindness and regard, and I soon gained the affection and friendship of the students. Although I found myself pleasantly situated, I soon perceived that all means for the furtherance of my favourite science were wanting. A promise was given me on my appointment that a collection should be commenced under my inspection, and also a garden, but the state of the finances of the academy prevented it. I was therefore limited to my collections; and as the library in my department was very poor, I should soon have retrograded in entomology if I had not recommenced travelling. In 1776, I published the "*Genera Insectorum*," which contained the natural definitions of the species; and in 1778 the "*Philosophia Entomologica*," in which

I endeavoured to determine the theoretical principles of entomology with greater accuracy. Both of them have now, by the great increase of science, become very incomplete, and require many additions. In the summer of 1778 I joined company with Professor Weber in a tour to Norway. To meet the expenses of the journey the government gave me 200 rix dollars. That gave rise to the publication of the "*Reise nach Norwegen*," which made its appearance in 1779. Although it is translated into the Danish, Dutch and French languages, and was also reprinted at Nuremberg, I am fully aware that it is both incorrect and incomplete, and must of necessity be so,—as the time was limited, the means of assistance small, and the weather very unfavourable. I should scarcely have determined on publishing it had I not considered it as a duty due for the assistance (limited as it was) which I had received for the journey. In 1780 I again went to England, where the different collections had been considerably enriched since my last sojourn there. On this journey I wrote, during my leisure hours, the little volume entitled "*Ueber die Volksvermehrung, insonderheit in Danemark*,"* which appeared in press in 1781. It contained a further developement of the concise principles which I had published in a chapter of my "*Elements of the Economic Sciences*,"† in which manner I have also developed others in my "*Policey Schriften*." It caused a great sensation, and the edition was sold off in a very short time, as it was written with great candour, and treated of matters without respect of persons. There appeared against it two controversial attacks; that by *Etatsraad Brunn*, of *Slesvig*, I cared little about, it did not deserve an answer; but the other, by *Stiftamtmand Oeder*, affected me greatly. His animadversions are written with a bitterness which, considering the estimation in which I held his merits, and also the friendly intercourse which for so many years had existed between us, were painful to me in the highest degree. Misled by his passions, he regarded a passage in my work as a personal offence, which it neither was nor could be. I did not answer it, although there were those who were acquainted with the circumstances of the time when *Oeder* became professor; they knew well what might have been said.

In the same year I published my "*Contemplations on the Economy of Nature*;"‡ they are certainly incomplete, and in some parts perhaps also incorrect, and only contain a further developement

* "*On the Increase of Population, particularly in relation to Denmark.*"

† "*Anfangsgrunde der Econom. Wissenschaften.*"

‡ "*Betrachtungen über die Einrichtungen der Natur.*"

ment of the laws of nature, such as I had previously published in the "*Kieler Beytrage*."*

In 1782, the "*Species Insectorum*" appeared in two volumes as a continuation of the "*Systema*." As there was at that period a prospect of my getting an appointment in England, and I, in consequence of the increase of my family, found my salary insufficient, I requested my dismissal. That proceeding caused the government to add annually to my stipend 200 rix dollars, and thus I had per annum 850 rix dollars, so I remained, but in the summer I made a tour to England. In 1783 I published my "*Letters on England, and on Education, especially in relation to Denmark*."† As they were published by a society termed "*Buchhandlung der Gelehrten*," which existed only for a short time, these publications have not become much known, and perhaps they did not deserve to be so. In 1784 appeared "*The Culture of Plants*,"‡ under the title of "*Sanders's Natural History for Country People*;"§ it contains short theoretical rules for a nursery and for the culture of plants, in such a simple style that it may be beneficial to the common people. In the summer I travelled with my wife and daughter through most of the provinces of Germany to Vienna. The principal object of this tour was to form an acquaintance with the authors of the "*Catalogue of the Lepidoptera of the Vicinity of Vienna*,"|| and inspect the collections; they were to me highly important. On the way thither I visited Leipzig, Dresden and Prague, where I revived some old acquaintances and formed new friendships. At Vienna I became acquainted with Denis, Poda, and many other learned men in my department. The principal author of the above Catalogue was Schieffermuller, whom the Emperor Joseph (after the abolition of the Theresian Institution), had appointed director of the Northern Institute at Lenz, to which place he had removed the cabinets; I therefore went there and remained with him about three weeks, in which time I examined his entire collection and described the insects according to my system. In the autumn I returned by Nuremberg, Erlangen, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Francfort, Cassell and Gottingen. In the *Historical Portfolio* of 1785 I have inserted some letters on Vienna relating to this journey.

* "*The Kiel Miscellany, or Contributions*."

† "*Briefe über England und über die Erziehung, besonders in Danmark*."

‡ "*Cultur de Gewachse*."

§ "*Sander's Naturgeschichte für Landleute*," 3ter Theil.

|| "*Verzeichniss der Schmetterlinge der Wiener Gegend*;"

In 1785 the first volume of my writings on Political Economy appeared; it contains an ample exposition of several chapters of my "Elements of the Œconomic Sciences." This work, although it was written with as great, nay, with greater freedom than that on the increase of population, caused less stir; the people had now become more accustomed to the liberty of the press. In 1786 I went by water to Petersburg, hoping here to increase my knowledge from visiting the collections of the many scientific men who had travelled through the Russian provinces, but I found much less than I expected. I was however very kindly received by the Princess Daschkow, at that time the president of the academy, also by Pallas, Euler, Georgi and Rennovanz. I also there formed an acquaintance with Boeber, which was very agreeable to me; he presented me with many insects, and I profited much by his conversation; but in other respects found very little interesting at St. Petersburg in my pursuit. In addition to the above disappointment, the cold and wet weather which occurred that summer (in a climate always raw and damp), added to the violent effects which the waters of the Neva produced on me, rendered me, for the first time during my travels, not exactly ill, but indisposed; that clear, pure and beautiful water of the Neva, which the inhabitants of Petersburg, who are accustomed to it, value so highly, caused me much of the time I remained there sickness and diarrhœa, which at length terminated. I imagine the cause of this violent attack may be attributed to the total want of fixed air in the water, as from the many kinds of water which I had drunk I never experienced any similar inconvenience; such effect is altogether the reverse of mineral wells. I returned to Copenhagen, and my Letters on Petersburg, published in the Historical Portfolio of 1787, were the fruits of this tour. In 1787 I published the "Mantissa Insectorum" in two volumes, which contained more particularly the corrections and additions which I obtained on my travels to Vienna and Petersburg. In the summer I again went with all my family to England. There Colonel Cathcart made a proposition that I should accompany him to the East Indies on very advantageous terms; he had been ordered by Government to visit all the English colonies in the East Indies, and examine their products, with a view to the promotion of manufactures and commerce; as he did not possess any knowledge of natural history, he proposed to take me with him as physiologist. It might have been a profitable voyage. Everything that I could desire was granted, but as it was a long and uncertain expedition, I thought it right, in case I did not return, that some provision

should be made for my wife and children; an objection was made, that the Board of Control would remonstrate against such a claim, as the appointment was properly a place for an unmarried man, and the expenses would fall on the East India Company. Without a prospect of my family being provided for, I could not properly leave them, and I therefore abandoned the undertaking. Cathcart, on his part, was offended; he took no naturalist with him; he sailed in the frigate *Venus*, died, and was buried in the Straits of Sunda, and the frigate returned after a fruitless voyage. In 1788 the second part of my writings on Political Œconomy appeared, in which, as in the first part, several chapters of my *Elements* are farther developed. In 1789, as I conceived I was unjustly treated, I demanded my dismissal from the Academy, which, after some hesitation, was granted me, with a pension of 400 rix dollars. It was my intention first to make a journey to France and then settle in England. But the students, out of esteem and affection for me, unanimously presented a petition to government, requesting they might be allowed to retain their teacher, and for the same purpose applied to me; thus I was persuaded to return the letter of dismissal which had been granted, especially as assurance was privately given me that no injustice was intended, and that at the earliest opportunity they would make amends for my disappointment, which, however, was never fulfilled. In 1790 I travelled with my wife and daughter to Paris, partly because I knew, from intelligence sent me by Olivier, that the Parisian Cabinets contained a considerable number of insects with which I was unacquainted, and partly because I wished to be fully informed respecting the new order of things which had been introduced by the Revolution. I was received with distinguished attention and friendship. Desfontaines, Jussieu, Bosc, Parmentier, Riche, Sylvestre, Fourcroy, Brongniart, Olivier, Thouin, Billardiere, Broussonet, and others, opened to me all their collections, and by their friendship and kindness contributed much to make my residence there both agreeable and instructive. I moreover formed an intimate acquaintance with some of the leaders of the Revolution, especially with the family of Roland, afterwards so very unfortunate, and also with Gregoire Millen and others. I often attended both the National Assembly and the Jacobin Club, and witnessed nearly all the scenes of the Revolution which took place. On the whole, my residence at Paris was interesting to me. At Midsummer, 1791, I returned by England to Kiel, but went almost immediately afterwards to Copenhagen with the hope of having my daughter cured. On the Pont Neuf in Paris she

had a fall, and hurt one of her knees, which occasioned a white swelling. No medical aid could avail; after suffering for two years she died. Our dear child carried with her to the grave much of our temporal happiness. Sweetly may her ashes rest!

In 1792 I endeavoured to obtain the superintendence of the nursery garden at Dusterbrock. That situation, which had become vacant by the death of the excellent Herschfeld, would have compensated me for the want of an economical garden, but I did not gain it. From 1792 to 1794 appeared the "*Entomologia Systematica*" in six volumes; it is a further exposition, augmentation and improvement of the "*Systema Entomologia*." In 1794, I found myself obliged, on account of my wife's health, to leave Kiel and take a journey to Switzerland; whilst nursing her sick daughter she had withdrawn from all society, and had suffered exceedingly both during her illness and at her death; I knew no better method of cheering her. We went by Jena, where both our sons were studying, thence by Coburg and Bamberg to Erlangen, where we spent some delightful days with Schreber. We proceeded then by Nurnberg, Augsburg, Lindau and St. Gallen, to Winterthur, where the hospitality of our dear friends, Clairville and his lady, detained us some weeks. There I formed an acquaintance with Dr. Sulzer, Ziegler, Schellenberg and others. From Winterthur we went to Zurich, and from thence proceeded on foot by Zug, Lucerne, and through the republican cantons, and back again to Zurich; afterwards we journeyed along the Rhine, by Francfort, Cassel, and at the close of the year we again arrived at Kiel. In 1796 my treatise on "*Academics*" appeared, which is also a farther exposition of the subject mentioned in the "*Elements*." In the same year I took my wife to Paris, as the place where she had lost her dear child reminded her too often and too forcibly of her loss. I was received with the same friendly feelings, renewed my old acquaintances and contracted new ones, amongst whom I regard the Director Re-veilliere Lepeaux and Professor Cuvier as the most important. In the autumn I returned alone to Kiel. In 1797 I again visited my wife in Paris, resided there some agreeable months, as both of our sons also had arrived from Vienna to pursue their medical studies. In the autumn I returned alone to Kiel. In 1798 I published a supplementary volume to the "*Entomologia Systematica*," with additions and improvements, and then went again to Paris. Besides the above-mentioned works I have written also several small tracts, which have appeared in the transactions of several scientific societies, but I regard them as of little im-

portance;—they seldom contain anything novel and are generally diffuse; many of them consist of descriptions of genera and species of insects, and are afterwards introduced in my other entomological works. There are only two which contain matters really new, namely, the tract on the "Sickness of Plants," which is published in the Transactions of the Society of Science at Drontheim, and the treatise on "The Organs of Hearing in Insects," the last appeared in the Transactions of the Society of Science of Copenhagen. In consequence of the small tracts of mine which have appeared in the Magazine of Kiel under the titles of "*Lob der Leibeigenschaft*," "*Ankündigung einer Geschichte Friderich des 5ten*," "*Og Danmarks Finants- und Schulden-Wesen*,"* I have often been attacked; they contain, however, several truths. I have become a member of different scientific societies, and on the title-page of my Supplement I have stated them all, so I need not here mention them, as I do not now remember the exact date at which I was appointed to each one in particular.

From the year 1798 to 1804 I went in the spring to Copenhagen, purposely to describe the many new insects which my particular friends and former pupils, Chamberlain, Sehested, and Etatsraad Tonder Lund, in their real zeal for science had collected. Their kind friendship allowed me full liberty in examining and describing them. It is the richest collection of the kind with which I am acquainted, and from it were derived an extraordinary number of new genera, which eventually induced me to treat every class as a whole. This was the origin of my "*Systema Eleutheratorum*" in two volumes, and also of the "*Ryngotorum*" and "*Piezatorum*," each in one volume, which were published at this period. In the summer I went every year to Paris in order that I might see the large collections which Olivier had brought from Persia and the East, Bauden from the South Sea, and those which other persons brought from Egypt; and this summer I expect the excellent Humboldt to return from South America. In the winter I always remained at Kiel to fulfil my duties to the Academy, and give lectures on Natural History and Economics. Oppressed by the infirmities of approaching age, and annoyed by several unpleasant circumstances in my academical situation, I wished to conclude my academical career, as I have been lecturer from the year 1768. The continual repetition of the elements has become wearisome to me; and although senior of the Philosophical Faculty and subsenior of the academy, I have seen

* On the Finance and Debts of Denmark.

most of my colleagues preferred before me in respect to salary. I have never been able to obtain from the academy the smallest assistance for the promotion of my favourite science, though it has so often been promised me, especially on my removal to Kiel. By the economical arrangement of my household affairs I have been enabled to meet the various expenses attending my writings, and also the education of my sons. It has at times certainly been difficult to do so. I have however never found it necessary to apply to the Copenhagen University to obtain such a stipend for the education of my children, which as having been a teacher there I might have laid claim to. Stipends are alms: and although my children from their infancy have had their names entered there, I have never wished to deprive such persons as had more need of it. I have now also sent to the press "*The Results of my Lectures on Natural History*,"* to point out the way in which I have treated of that science. With regard to *Æconomy*, that has been sufficiently made known in my work entitled "*Elements of the Æconomical Sciences*."

Such was my life, cherished by my countrymen, although some of the higher ranks took offence at my writings on politics. Beloved by the learned abroad, I met on my travels everywhere with the most friendly reception. A healthy body, a light heart, and an easy mind, raised me above many troubles. Continual employment in my favourite science, which is itself inexhaustible, but which I cultivated with great pleasure, and not without success, kept up my ardour in the pursuit, and diffused peace and happiness over the whole course of my life.

J. C. FABRICIUS,

Professor of the University of Kiel.

In concluding this memoir on the illustrious Fabricius I have now the satisfaction in offering to the Society a portrait of that learned individual; it is copied by Mr. Spry from an authentic one, and does justice to the likeness, which can readily be seen even by an inexperienced person. If it is thought worthy of being added to our Transactions it can be appended to some future number. The stone also is perfectly at the service of the Society. I regret to state that some interesting communications relating to the family of Fabricius have not yet reached me from Copenhagen. Should they not arrive before this memoir goes to press, they will at a future time be forwarded to the Society.

R. W. H.

* "*Resultate meiner naturhistorischen Vorlesungen*."

Some brief Notices of deceased Neapolitan Entomologists.
Communicated by SIGNOR O. G. COSTA, *of Naples, and*
translated by the Rev. F. W. HOPE, F.R.S., &c. &c.

1. DOMINIQUE CIRILLO.

DOMINIQUE CIRILLO, a physician, was at first, professor of botany and afterwards of theoretic medicine at the university of Naples. He was the first person who studied insects in this city, and he conceived the idea of publishing in a series of figures all the new species or most rare insects of this country. He had pupils who aided him greatly in collecting, and sent him insects from other parts of the kingdom. The engravings which accompany the work were drawn by himself. It was not till the year 1787 that the first number made its appearance, under the title of "*Specimen Entomologiæ Neapolitanæ.*" It consisted of twenty-four engraved folio plates, twelve of text and twelve of figures. He worked diligently in the Entomological department of this country, and he not only noted the particular localities in which species lived, but also the months in which they were found. Sometimes he specified the plants on which they fed, and other peculiarities. Unfortunately we have reason to lament that this work was at its commencement stopped, and even of the only number published there were so few copies that it is now impossible to procure it. He fell a victim to the politics of 1799,* in which he was engaged.†

2. VINCENT PETAGNA.

Vincent Petagna was professor of botany at the university of Naples, after Cirillo had succeeded to the chair of Theoretic Medicine. He was a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, a physician and a distinguished botanist; and commenced studying insects from a spirit of emulation towards Cirillo, of whom he was a rival. In the year 1783, having in his possession insects collected in Calabria by two young men, Julio Candida and Joseph Stephanelli, and also all the Entomological observations they had made, he composed a work which he published in 1786 under the title of "*Specimen Insectorum ulterioris Calabriae,*" in quarto,

* Not in the year 1796 as Mr. Swainson asserts in his *Taxidermy*, published in 1840. Vid. page 162 (O. G. Costa).

† Besides the "*Specimen Ent. Neapolitanæ,*" Cirillo has published some memoirs on botany and medicine.

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Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

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