

graphy, or an account of the habits of the birds of America; accompanied by descriptions of the objects represented in the work, and interspersed with delineations of American Scenery and manners," by John James Audubon.

Of this work, it is truly said:—"The most signal publication on American Birds, is that of Mr. Audubon, which far exceeds, in size and splendour, all its predecessors, in any department of Zoology—the dimensions of this work enables the author, not only to present the largest birds of the United States, of the size and the attitudes of living nature, but to figure them in family groups, so admirably conceived and executed, as really to form historical pictures of the greatest interest, and of the highest utility to the student of Ornithology. In these and other respects, neither his predecessors nor his contemporaries can be named as his equals, either in Europe or America; for we know of no one who has at all in the same degree combined accuracy of individual representation with lively and energetic portraiture of general form."

One of the ablest reviewers of this country, has said:—"None can see these splendid drawings, and compare them with the ordinary illustrations of Natural History—in which animals appear as spiritless as if they had been sitting for their portraits—without admiring his taste and skill."

Again:—the celebrated Baron Cuvier, says of this work:—"That it is the most magnificent monument which has hitherto been erected to Ornithology. The execution of the plates, so admirable for their size, appears to have been equally successful in relation to their design, engraving, and colouring. The history of the birds of the United States, by Wilson, has already equalled in elegance our most finished productions on Ornithology—when that of Audubon's shall have been completed, it must be conceded that in magnificence of execution America will have surpassed Europe."

It will depend much on the liberality and correct feeling of the National and State Governments of our country, whether America shall have the honor of encouraging such an undertaking—and, as "this work is on so magnificent a scale, that its expense puts it beyond the means of any but the richest—individually considered;—public Libraries and Scientific Societies may, however, be able to purchase it; and, we trust to their patronage to encourage an ingenious man, whose labours reflect honor on their common country."

It is confidently believed, that it would be consulting the highest interest of the public—as well of science and literature in general—for the Legislature to make an especial