

He who, with a keen appreciation of the beauties of nature manifested in mountains, rivers, and forest glades, has himself traveled over the torrid zone, and seen the luxuriance and diversity of vegetation, not only on the cultivated sea-coasts, but on the declivities of the snow-crowned Andes, the Himalaya, or the Nilgherry Mountains of Mysore, or in the primitive forests, amid the net-work of rivers lying between the Orinoco and the Amazon, can alone feel what an inexhaustible treasure remains still unopened by the landscape painter between the tropics in both continents, or in the island-world of Sumatra, Borneo, and the Philippines; and how all the spirited and admirable efforts already made in this portion of art fall far short of the magnitude of those riches of nature of which it may yet become possessed. Are we not justified in hoping that landscape painting will flourish with a new and hitherto unknown brilliancy when artists of merit shall more frequently pass the narrow limits of the Mediterranean, and when they shall be enabled, far in the interior of continents, in the humid mountain valleys of the tropical world, to seize, with the genuine freshness of a pure and youthful spirit, on the true image of the varied forms of nature?

These noble regions have hitherto been visited mostly by travelers whose want of artistical education, and whose differently directed scientific pursuits afforded few opportunities of their perfecting themselves in landscape painting. Only very few among them have been susceptible of seizing on the total impression of the tropical zone, in addition to the botanical interest excited by the individual forms of flowers and leaves. It has frequently happened that the artists appointed to accompany expeditions fitted out at the national expense have been chosen without due consideration, and almost by accident, and have been thus found less prepared than such appointments required; and the end of the voyage may thus have drawn near before even the most talented among them, by a prolonged sojourn among grand scenes of nature, and by frequent attempts to imitate what they saw, had more than

partment of miniatures, drawings, and engravings), a treasure of art which, owing to its peculiarity and picturesque variety, is incomparably superior to any other collection. The title of the papers edited by Von Kittlitz is *Vegetations-Ansichten der Küstenländer und Inseln des stillen Oceans, aufgenommen 1827-1829, auf der Entdeckungs-reise der kais. Russ. Corvette Senjüwin* (Siegen, 1844). There is also great fidelity to nature in the drawings of Carl Bodmer, which are engraved in a masterly manner, and which greatly embellish the large work of the travels of Prince Maximilian of Wied in the interior of North America.