

friends Sir John and Lady Franklin, who, besides facilitating my views in every way, both publicly and privately, with the most generous hospitality received myself and family into their house, where Mrs. Gould and my eldest son, who had accompanied us, remained for nearly ten months, while I pursued my researches in various parts of Van Diemen's Land and the continent of Australia; and it is only by those who, like myself, have had the advantage of residing in the bosom of this amiable family, that the kindness of their nature and the goodness of their hearts can be duly appreciated, and which can never be erased from my memory. I must acknowledge not less gratefully the many acts of kindness rendered to me by Sir George and Lady Gipps during my stay in Sydney. After exploring Van Diemen's Land, the islands in Bass's Straits, South Australia, and New South Wales, into the interior of which country I penetrated to the distance of nearly four hundred miles from the coast-line, I despatched my able assistant, Mr. Gilbert, to explore the western and northern portions of the country, and returned to England in August 1840; I immediately commenced the work *de novo*, and the result of my labours is now before the public. It fortunately happened at the commencement and during the progress of the work, Her Majesty's ships the *Beagle*, under the command of Captains Wickham and Stokes; the *Britomart*, under Captain Stanley; the *Fly*, under Captain Blackwood, and the *Pelorus* under Captain Chambers were employed in surveying the northern and north-western coasts of Australia; and the *Erebus* and *Terror* under Captain Sir James C. Ross, in a voyage of discovery towards the south pole. While engaged in the performance of their arduous duties, the officers of those vessels succeeded in procuring many interesting novelties, which, with the greatest liberality, were communicated to me for the present work, whereby its value has been much enhanced. This liberality will be found duly acknowledged in the histories of the species, for the use of which I am indebted to the kindness of B. Bynoe, Esq., Surgeon R.N., Lieut. Emery, R.N., Commander J. M. R. Ince, R.N., Edward Dring, Esq., Purser R.N., Dr. Robertson and Robert M'Cormick, Esq., Surgeons R.N., and John M'Gillivray, Esq.

After spending two years in Western and Northern Australia, Mr. Gilbert returned to England in September 1841, bringing with him the result of his labours, which proved of sufficient value and importance to induce me to believe that much yet remained to be discovered in those countries, and to direct him to return thither, which he accordingly did in the ensuing spring; and after again visiting Swan River, and sedulously exploring the interior so far as practicable, he proceeded to Sydney, and, unfortunately for himself, allowed his love