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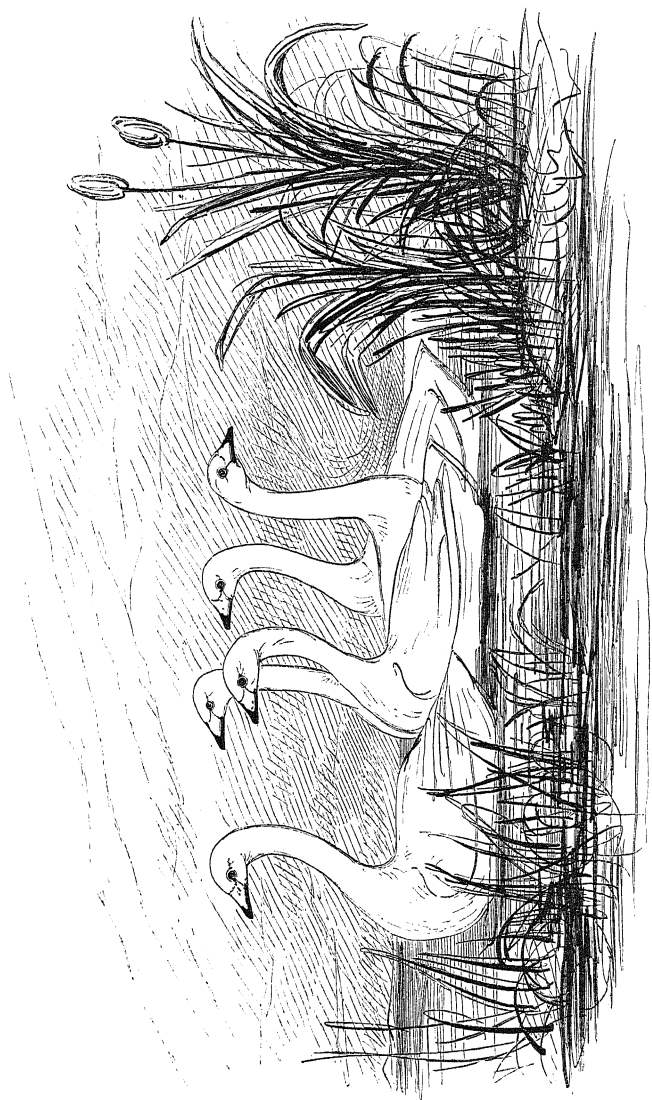
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GROUP OF WILD SWANS.

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NATURAL HISTORY & SPORT IN MORAY

COLLECTED FROM THE JOURNALS AND LETTERS

OF THE LATE

CHARLES ST. JOHN

AUTHOR OF 'WILD SPORTS OF THE HIGHLANDS'



EDINBURGH
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MDCCCLXIII

P R E F A C E.

No encomium of the editor could so effectually recommend this little volume to a large class of readers as the knowledge that its text consists entirely of the observations and notes of Charles St. John—a name dear to lovers of Nature and manly sport. It is made up of entries in his Journals and Note books, incidents related in letters to his friends, and a careful description of the birds of Moray which he left in MS. With these materials, hitherto unpublished, the substance of the “Field Notes of a Naturalist,”* which he published in 1849, has been incorporated.

Among Mr. St. John’s Notes is the following passage, shewing his views of the duty of an observer of natural history :—

“ I have been particularly careful to describe and note down nothing, the authenticity of which I am not certain of. Indeed, every bird here mentioned, with one or two exceptions, I have either killed or seen myself during my wanderings in wood and plain for several years in this district. I have carefully avoided the great error of taking things on hearsay. In the very few instances in which I have been obliged to depend on the eyes of others I have

* A Tour in Sutherland, 2 vols. 1849.