

A TREATISE  
ON  
THE EXTERNAL CHARACTERS  
OF  
FOSSILS.

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INTRODUCTION.

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*Of Mineralogy in General.*

§. 1.

ALL sciences are valuable; differing only in this respect, that some are more extensively useful than others, or more immediately related to common life.

§. 2.

One of the most generally useful, and nearly indispensable to civil society, is *Mineralogy*, or the *natural history of fossils*. Its utility to the Miner, Smelter, Physician, Chemist, Natural Philosopher, &c. is too well known to need particular notice here; and it would be contrary to my present design to hold a panegyric on this science.

§. 3.

Of the several branches of Mineralogy\*, *Oryctognosy* is unquestionably the most important; especially

\* To the reader, unacquainted with Mr. Werner's method of treating Mineralogy, it may not be useless to observe that, considering this science in different points of view, he has accordingly distributed it into five distinct branches, treating of each separately—