



BIBLIOTECA

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District of Pennsylvania.

J. FAGAN, STEREOTYPER.
C. SHERMAN, PRINTER.

(16)

PREFACE

TO
THE AMERICAN EDITION.

I HAVE often been surprised to observe how far the art of COOKERY in the United States is behind the age. It was therefore with much pleasure that I undertook, at the request of the publishers, to superintend an American edition of this new work of Miss ACTON, when, on examination, I found how well it was adapted to the wants of this country, at the present time.

The Preface of the Author is so complete, and explains so fully her wishes and motives in publishing, that I have little to add, except to state that, as the work is presented solely as the result of the Author's experience, it would have been inconsistent with the plan to make many additions. Therefore, the few which have been made, refer chiefly to the preparation of those articles which may be regarded as more strictly American: such as Indian Corn, Terrapins, and some others. Whatever revision has

taken place, is in reference to the use of a few articles and terms not generally known here, for which substitutes are presented, so as to adapt the work to this country. The additional matter will be found distinguished by brackets [—].

This work has been so well received in England, as to have already passed to a second edition; enjoying the universal approbation of the press, and the general favour of the public. I cannot but feel persuaded that, when known, it will prove equally satisfactory to the housekeepers of this country, and find its way into the hands of all who wish to improve in the Art of Cookery.

S. J. H.

PHILADELPHIA, August, 1845.

PREFACE

TO

THE ENGLISH EDITION.

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THE proper and wholesome preparation of our daily food, though it may hold in the estimation of the world but a very humble place among the useful arts of life, can scarcely be considered an altogether unimportant one, involving so entirely, as it does, both health and comfort.

England is, beyond most other countries, rich in the varied and abundant produce of its soil, or *of its commerce*, which in turn supply to it all that the necessities or the luxury of its people can demand; yet, until within very recent years, its cookery has remained far inferior to that of nations much less advanced in civilization; and foreigners have been called in to furnish to the tables of our aristocracy, and of the wealthier orders of the community, those refinements of the art which were not to be obtained from native talent.

Our improvement was for a long time opposed by our own strong and stubborn prejudices against innovation in general, and against the innovations of strangers in particular; but these, of late, have fast given way before the more rational and liberal spirit of the times: happily for ourselves, we have ceased to be too bigoted, or too proud to profit by the superior information and experience of others upon any subject of utility. The present age is one of rapid and universally progressing knowledge; and nothing which is really calculated to advance either the great or *the small* interests of society is now regarded as too homely or too insignificant for notice. The details of domestic economy, in particular, are no longer sneered at as beneath the attention of the educated and accomplished; and the truly refined, intelligent, and high-minded women of England have ceased, in these days of comparative good sense, to consider their acquaintance with such