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Now, finally, why should such a compilation as this be made? John Ray in *The Wisdom of God Manifested in the Works of the Creation* (1717) wrote:

"In all Ages wherein Learning hath flourished, Complaint hath been made of the Itch of Writing, and the Multitude of worthless Books, wherewith importunate Scribblers have pester'd the World; . . . I am sensible that this Tractate may likely incur the Censure of a superfluous Piece, and myself the Blame of giving the Reader unnecessary Trouble, there having been so much so well written of this Subject, by the most learned Men of our Time, . . . so that it will need some Apology. *First*, therefore, in Excuse of it, I plead, That there are in it some Considerations new and untouch'd by others: Wherein, if I be mistaken, I alledge; *Secondly*, That the Manner of Delivery and Expression may be more suitable to some Mens Apprehension, and facile to their Understandings. If that will not hold, I pretend, *Thirdly*, That all the Particulars contained in this Book, cannot be found in any one Piece known to me, but lie scattered and dispersed in