About

An English scientist, doctor, inventor, poet and botanist, Erasmus Darwin was also grandfather to Charles Darwin. He was born in Nottinghamshire, the youngest of seven children, and educated at St John’s College, Cambridge and the University of Edinburgh Medical School. From 1756, he worked as highly successful physician but he had many other talents. His theories on biological evolution by means of natural selection were handed down to his grandson to prove. He was recognised as the leading English poet of his day and was the first to fully understand and explain the process of photosynthesis in plants and to describe the formation of clouds. Darwin also formed the Litchfield Botanical Society to translate the works of Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus from Latin to English; the resulting publications – *A System of Vegetables* (1783-1785) and *The Families of Plants* (1878), coin many of the English names of plants that we use today. Darwin’s third major work, *Phytologia*, is an agricultural treatise dealing with practical matters such as manures, draining and watering of land, plant diseases and reform of the Linnaean system of classification.
Condition

Leather binding presented by R.M. Hague. Rubbing to front and rear boards. Front board attached only by single cord. Front endpaper detached. Foxing to front and rear papers and particularly to plates throughout. Tears also to both fold-out plates.