

With regard to the best means of making use of this work, the advice of the great founder of Inductive Philosophy, on the Study of Books in general, expressed in the quotation prefixed to this address, is peculiarly applicable to the different classes of readers for whom these volumes are designed.

Thus, "*the Book may be tasted, that is, read only in parts,*" by the intelligent reader, who requires but a general acquaintance with the subjects it embraces. The perusal of the introductory and concluding remarks of each chapter, of the general descriptions of fossil remains, and of the circumstances under which they occur, omitting the scientific terms and descriptions, and a cursory examination of the illustrations, will probably satisfy his curiosity; and the work may be transferred to the library for occasional reference, or taken as a travelling companion and guide to some interesting geological district.

But the Book "*must be swallowed, that is, read, but not curiously,*" by the reader desirous of forming a collection of organic remains. A general acquaintance with its contents, and a careful investigation of the characters of the specimens, and comparison with the figures and descriptions, will be requisite to enable the amateur collector to determine the nature of the fossils he may discover.

By the STUDENT the Book "*must be digested, that is, read wholly, and with diligence and attention.*"