xii PREFACE.

all those of the museum of the University of Ann Arbor, in Michigan; and, through the kindness of Professor Poey of the University of Havana, I have been able to compare the Turtles of the island of Cuba with those of the continent of North America. Prof. Jeffries Wyman has allowed me, with the same liberality, the free use of the preparations relating to Turtles contained in the museum of Comparative Anatomy of our University. I have also received valuable specimens for comparison from the museum of the Essex Institute, in Salem.

Among private individuals who have largely contributed to my collection of Turtles, I have to mention, first, Mr. Winthrop Sargent, of Natchez. Not satisfied with collecting extensively the Turtles in the neighborhood of his residence, he undertook a journey of many hundred miles for the special purpose of securing all the species living in the adjoining regions, and, having completed the survey, set out with a cargo of living Turtles, and brought them safely alive to me in Cambridge, after a journey of over a thousand miles. Such devotion to the interests of science, on the part of a gentleman who is not himself a naturalist, deserves more than a passing notice. To him I am indebted for the opportunity of studying several species, alive, which have probably never been seen before, by any naturalist, in a fresh state.

It would be difficult for me to convey an adequate idea of the value of all the different contributions I have received for this part of my work. In some instances they consisted perhaps of a few specimens of well-known species, but then they came from regions where their presence had not been ascertained before; or the specimens were so numerous as to afford ample opportunity to determine the range of their variations; or there were among them, young ones, in a state of development not before observed. Yet I may well say, that, however numerous have been the invoices of Turtles which I received from the different States, not one was superfluous; and I have frequently regretted that I could not obtain more, for there are still several species, the eggs or the young of which I have not been able to get.

The better to show to what extent these specimens were sufficient satisfactorily to determine the geographical distribution of our Turtles, I will enumerate them in geographical order. From the British Provinces, my information was chiefly derived from collections and notices sent me by Mr. M. H. Perley, of St. John, and Mr. Wm. Couper, of Toronto. In New England, I have myself collected largely; but I have also received valuable contributions from the late Rev. Zadock Thompson, of Burlington; from Mr. James E. Mills, of Bangor; from the late Dr. W. I. Burnett, of Boston; from Capt. N. Atwood, of Province-town; from Mr. D. Henry Thorean, of Concord; from Mr. F. W. Putnam, of Salem; from Mr. Sidney Brooks, of Harwich; from Mr. Sanborn Tenney, of Auburndale; and from Mr. J. W. P. Jenks, of Middleboro'. Messrs. Tenney and Jenks have repeatedly sent me the Turtles of our neighborhood by hundreds. From the State of New York, I have received speci-