

unfiring patience and unsurpassed accuracy, most of the microscopic illustrations which adorn my work. I owe it to Mr. Clark to say, that he has identified himself so thoroughly with my studies since he took his degree in the Lawrence Scientific School, that it would be difficult for me to say when I ceased to guide him in his work. But this I know very well, — that he is now a most trustworthy observer, fully capable of tracing for himself the minutest microscopic investigation, and the accuracy of his illustrations challenges comparison. I esteem myself happy to have been able to secure the continued assistance of my old friend, Mr. A. Sonrel, in drawing the zoölogical figures of my work. More than twenty years ago, he began to make illustrations for my European works; and ever since he has been engaged, with short interruptions, in executing drawings for me. The mastery he has attained in this department, and the elegance and accuracy of his lithographic representations, are unsurpassed, if they are anywhere equalled. For all these invaluable services, it is but justice that I should make this public acknowledgment.

As questions of omission or oversight may come up hereafter respecting the different topics discussed in these volumes, it is proper for me to state, that the printing of the text of the first volume has been completed more than ten months; indeed, the First Part passed through the press fifteen months ago. My object in delaying its publication was chiefly to await the time when I could lay before my readers a fair specimen of the plates, no one of which relates exclusively to the first volume. The text of the second volume was finished in June last. But here I met with another difficulty. The subject of this volume did not require a sufficiently large number of plates to be fully equivalent to that required for two volumes, when counting the plates as they now are, as simple plates, notwithstanding the large increase of figures crowded upon each, and it seemed inappropriate to bind together plates belonging to different volumes. I shall therefore have to make up for this deficiency by a sufficient addition of plates to the third volume, the subject of which naturally requires very numerous illustrations. I hope no disappointment will be felt, on this account, by my subscribers, for in the course pursued by the publishers and by myself, they will readily see that we have aimed to do every thing in our power to respond to the liberality of the subscription; and I trust the following volumes will afford additional evidence of this disposition.

LOUIS AGASSIZ.

CAMBRIDGE, October 3, 1837.