

PREFACE TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

It is now more than three years since the appearance of the last Edition of the Manual (published January, 1851). In that interval the science of Geology has been advancing as usual at a rapid pace, making it desirable to notice many new facts and opinions, and to consider their bearing on the previously acquired stock of knowledge. In my attempt to bring up the information contained in this Treatise to the present state of the science, I have added no less than 200 new Illustrations and 140 new pages of Text, which, if printed separately and in a less condensed form, might have constituted alone a volume of respectable size. To give in detail a list of all the minor corrections and changes would be tedious; but I have thought it useful, in order to enable the reader of former editions to direct his attention at once to what is new, to offer the following summary of the more important additions and alterations.

Principal Additions and Alterations in the present Edition.

CHAP. IX.—“The general Table of Fossiliferous strata,” formerly placed at the end of Chapter XXVII., is now given at p. 104, that the beginner may accustom himself from the first to refer to it from time to time when studying the numerous subdivisions into which it is now necessary to separate the chronological series of rocks. The Table has been enlarged by a column of Foreign Equivalents, comprising the names and localities of some of the best known strata in other countries of contemporaneous date with British Formations.

CHAP. XIV.—XVI.—The classification of the Tertiary formations has been adapted to the information gained by me during a tour made in the summer of 1851 in France and Belgium. The results of my survey were printed in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society of London for