

might prove suggestive to the student, and assist him in reasoning upon those phenomena of ordinary occurrence, without close observation of which no one can ever arrive at a successful interpretation of nature. If the reader should descry aught of repetition which has escaped my notice, I must crave his indulgence, in consideration of the very difficult and arduous task which God, in His mysterious providence, has allotted me. To endeavour to do by these writings as my husband himself would if he were yet with us,—to preserve the integrity of the text, and in dealing with what is new, to bring to bear upon it the same unswerving rectitude of purpose in valuing and accepting every iota of truth, whether it can be explained or not, rejecting all that is crude, and abhorring all that is false,—this has been my aim, although, alas! too conscious throughout of the comparative feebleness of the powers brought to bear upon it. If, however, the reader is led to inquire for himself, I trust he will find that these powers, such as they are, have been used in no light or frivolous spirit, but with a deep and somewhat of an adequate, sense of the vast importance of the subject.

L. M.