

## AUTHOR'S PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH EDITION.

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I AM desirous of prefacing the English edition of the "History of Creation" with a few remarks which may serve to explain the origin and object of this book. In the year 1866 I published, under the title "Generelle Morphologie," a somewhat comprehensive work, which constituted the first attempt to apply the general doctrine of development to the whole range of organic morphology (Anatomy and Biogenesis), and thus to make use of the vast march onwards which the genius of Charles Darwin has effected in all biological science by his reform of the Descent Theory and its establishment through the doctrine of selection. At the same time, in the "Generelle Morphologie," the first attempt was made to introduce the Descent Theory into the systematic classification of animals and plants, and to found a "natural system" on the basis of genealogy; that is, to construct hypothetical pedigrees for the various species of organisms.

The "Generelle Morphologie" found but few readers, for which the voluminous and unpopular style of treatment, and its too extensive Greek terminology, may be chiefly to blame. But a proportionately large measure of approval has met