PREFACE.

hasty traveller an hour's delay at the station, a day's wandering by the waterfalls, a week's ramble over rocky hills. Valuable works, indeed, there are of Local Topography and Antiquities, but not much of a general character, to plead with the Residents of the County for a better knowledge of its natural beauties, and the memorials of its old inhabitants.

There is, indeed, a large harvest to reap, and much inducement to gather it. The Physical Geography and Scenery of the County have been too little considered; the various elements of Climate which reign on its long line of romantic coast, its broad fertile valleys, and ranges of barren mountains, but little inferior to their neighbours in Cumberland, have not been recorded; the vast spaces of new land which Art and Nature have conquered from the sea, have yielded more rents than reflections; the roads and camps of the Romans, and the earlier sites of Brigantian tribes, are travelled over with little thought of the ages to which they belong.

With the hope of supplying some of these desiderata, of inciting Residents to *study*, and visitors to *explore*, this magnificent County, I venture to add this volume of general description to those larger works on the Geology of Yorkshire, for the indulgent reception of which the Author is profoundly grateful.

St. Mary's Lodge, York, November 1, 1852.

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