

and to designate the parts most important to be thoroughly studied, by a larger type. We have often, too, placed the most difficult reasoning in small type, that the teacher may allow those pupils not mature enough to master it to pass over it. He can also, when necessary, do the same with some whole sections ; say Part I., Section 6, on Metamorphism ; Part II., Section 3, the Laws of Palæontology ; and Section 4, the Inferences from the facts ; although in truth these parts, to those who mean to master the whole subject, are indispensable. Part IV., on Economical Geology, can also be omitted, as well as Part V., on American Geology. And it may be that some might profitably study the descriptive and phenomenal parts of the subject, who are too young to understand its religious applications in Part III. Thus while we present the whole subject, both for the sake of teachers and private individuals who wish to study the science, we put it into such a shape that it can be accommodated to the age and time of the pupil, and also lead him to see that until he has mastered the whole, he does not understand geology.

In this revision I have associated with me my youngest son, who has borne a large share in the work. As assistant in the geological survey of Vermont, a large part of the last three years has been devoted by him to the study of the rocks in the mountains, and in writing out their descriptions. Should it happen, as most likely it will, that this is the last revision of the work I shall ever make, and he should survive me, I trust he will be found fully competent to keep the work up to the advancing state of the science, should the public call for its continued publication.

EDWARD HITCHCOCK.

AMHERST, *June 1, 1860.*