


## Preface.

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HE present volume is founded upon M. Figuier's "LA TERRE ET LES MERS;" but so many additions have been made to the original, and its aim and scope have been so largely extended, that it may almost be called a new work. These additions and this extension were deemed necessary by the Editor in order to render it more suitable for the British public, and in order to bring it up to the present standard of geographical knowledge. It is but fair to observe, however, that the original *plan* has been in no wise altered; that the *framework* remains as M. Figuier built it up; and that the Editor's task has simply been that of the architect who enlarges and adapts a well-built mansion to the wants of a new proprietor.

The title of the present volume indicates with tolerable clearness what its subject is: a comprehensive survey of the configuration of the Earth and the Seas, viewed from the stand-point of Physical Geography. It does not concern itself with the political divisions of the world, or distinguish between different nations