

## P R E F A C E.

### TO THE ENGLISH EDITION.

IN presenting this volume to English readers, the prominent part which the science of Britain has borne in the development of the subjects discussed comes naturally to mind. The remarkable works and memoirs of ELLIS, from 1754 to 1786, which forced LINNÆUS and PALLAS ultimately to admit that corals belong to the animal kingdom, gave the earliest great impulse to the study of this branch of Zoölogy. On the other hand, DARWIN'S admirable investigations first made known the true nature and theory of coral reefs and islands. The publications of ELLIS were constantly by my side in the preparation of my "Report on Zoöphytes;" and the theory of DARWIN—as I have stated in my general preface—gave me, in my ocean journeyings, not only light, but delight, since facts found their places under it so readily, and derived from it so wide a bearing on the earth's history. In later years have appeared the works of JOHNSTON, GOSSE, and HINCKS, and the many memoirs of GRAY, FORBES, WRIGHT, DUNCAN, and other workers in science, which have aided largely in giving this department of Zoölogy its present advanced position. Since the subject of polyps is only incidental to the main topic of this volume, I have not had occasion to refer to the details of these memoirs. But the name of GOSSE appears often in connection with passages cited from his "British Sea-Anemones;" and I heartily commend his work to all who would appreciate the beauties of