

P R E F A C E.

THE Essays here collected and revised have appeared at intervals in various journals, and I have to express my thanks to the Councils of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Geographical Society, and to the Editors and Publishers of *Nature*, *Good Words*, and *Macmillan's Magazine*, for their freely accorded permission to reprint them. Most of the papers being records of geological rambles, I have introduced into them a few illustrative sketches from my notebooks.

EDINBURGH, *15th March 1882.*