

P R E F A C E .

THE object of this work is to give, in a connected form, a summary of the development of the vegetable kingdom in geological time.

To the geologist and botanist the subject is one of importance with reference to their special pursuits, and one on which it has not been easy to find any convenient manual of information. It is hoped that its treatment in the present volume will also be found sufficiently simple and popular to be attractive to the general reader.

In a work of so limited dimensions, detailed descriptions cannot be given, except occasionally by way of illustration; but references to authorities will be made in foot-notes, and certain details, which may be useful to collectors and students, will be placed in notes appended to the chapters, so as not to encumber the text.

The illustrations of this work are for the most part original; but some of them have previously appeared in special papers of the author.

J. W. D.

February, 1888.