

P R E F A C E.

THE important objects for which H.M.S. *Challenger* was placed at the disposal of a scientific staff under the direction of Professor Sir Charles Wyville Thompson, F.R.S., the gratifying results obtained by the full investigation of the bed of the ocean, and the vast amount of information gathered by visits to distant lands very rarely explored, render the cruise of the *Challenger* highly interesting and instructive to the British public.

Under these circumstances, I have been induced by numerous friends to revise my daily journals, and publish in a concise and readable form a continuous narrative of this celebrated voyage.

In this volume I shall not in any way interfere with the scientific results, beyond simply naming them in a cursory and general way, leaving to Professor Thompson the task of dealing with these subjects, and the application of the information obtained to the furtherance of physical knowledge.

The description of places visited is given in the way that I have viewed them, and under the impressions that filled my mind at the time; but as the geographical aspects of foreign scenes must be similar by whomsoever observed, it is scarcely possible to avoid occasionally using descriptions almost identical with those published on the subject by previous visitors.

The chief interest connected with this narrative will be the vast extent traversed in the pursuit of knowledge, which admits of the combination in this volume of the general outline of the manners and customs of nations and tribes rarely visited, and descriptions of scenery under every condition of temperature, from the fiery Tropics to the ice-bound Antarctic regions: thus combining in the work a fund of information that has been brought together through special