

PREFACE.

THIS work is not put forward as a completed Flora of the Lake District. I have never lived within its boundaries, but when I belonged to Yorkshire, now twenty years ago, and was engaged upon 'North Yorkshire' and the 'New Flora of Northumberland and Durham,' I several times visited the Lakes and made notes upon the plants and their range in altitude, and spent the wet days in codifying the widely-scattered records of my forerunners in the botanical exploration of the district. My collection of notes has been from time to time lent to various botanical friends who have visited it, and they have entered into the books their own observations, and the Rev. W. W. Newbould has given me his ever-ready help in copying out at the British Museum the stations from some of the books to which I could not get access elsewhere. Lately, in editing the catalogue of species for Westmoreland and Cumberland for the new edition of Watson's 'Topographical Botany,' and reading the detailed diary by Mr. Watson of his excursions in 1835, from Keswick, Kendal, and Shap, which has come into my hands as his executor, my interest in the subject has been revived, and as it does not seem likely at present to stand in the way of anything more complete, I have thought it best to publish my collection of notes as they stand, especially as the local Societies are now

training up a new generation of observers, who cannot obtain access to the botanical periodicals and older works of a general character, and, even if they could, have no fair chance of understanding the gap which, from a scientific point of view, separates Watson and Borrer from Richardson and Hutton. I have considered the district which I have included as extending northward and eastward to Allonby, Wigton, Penrith, and Tebay, but have not always strictly kept to an exact limit in those directions. Broadly speaking, there are two wide tracts of country included in Watson's Lake Province not here dealt with, the low-lying northern half of Cumberland, often called the Plain of Carlisle, and the western slope of the Pennine Chain through Cumberland and Westmoreland. The Lake District, as here treated, is a mountainous tract with a distinct physical individuality of its own, and with a distinct botanical individuality, both in respect of the plants that are present and those that are rare or absent, the details of which I have endeavoured here to record as faithfully as I could. So many people have botanised at one time or another at the Lakes, that I doubt not this record will fall into the hands of many who will be able materially to modify it and add to it, and I shall be glad to receive any notes on the farther range of species, with a view of using them in a new edition.

J. G. BAKER.

Kew Herbarium,
Feb. 1885.