

P R E F A C E.

As this Volume is conducted on precisely the same principles as those which characterised the two previous instalments of the work, no introductory preface is needful. I cannot, however, dismiss the Volume without returning my sincere thanks to the many friends who have aided me by their valuable assistance.

More especially are my acknowledgments due to those eminent naturalists, such as Mr. Blackwall and Mr. Busk, who liberally permitted the use of figures taken from unpublished volumes; and to the officers connected with the Zoological Department of the British Museum, without whose constant assistance I could not have carried out so laborious a task.

LONDON, 1863.

REPTILES.

The remarkable beings which are classed together under the general title of Reptiles, or creeping animals, are spread over most portions of the globe where the climate is tolerably warm, and are found in the greatest profusion under the dense tropical luxuriance of cold, though capable of enduring the temperature of such freezing climates.