

P R E F A C E.

THE following studies were conducted during leisure hours snatched from other and more pressing avocations, and have been subject to the frequent interruptions which fall to the lot of the observer who is prevented from devoting continuous attention to his work. This may in some measure explain any want of cohesion and strict systematic arrangement that may be apparent in the method of treating the subjects dealt with, whilst my short residence in New Brunswick disqualifies me from writing an exhaustive treatise on its natural history. Nevertheless I hope, as one of the first attempts towards elucidating the natural history of an important and interesting portion of the Canadian Dominion, that my little volume may receive some favour, more especially on the other side of the Atlantic, where cultivators of this branch of learning have not, until of late years, been by any means numerous. Indeed, considering the inviting fields presented by the New World, it appears surprising how little has been accomplished in what naturalists call Field Studies; for although almost every animal and many of the plants and rocks have been named and described, very little is known of their geographical distribution, which has elsewhere been ascertained by compounding the labours of local and independent observers. The explanation of