

## P R E F A C E .

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To the encouragement of Prof. J. P. Lesley, State Geologist of Pennsylvania, is largely due the author's interest in the investigations into the history of Niagara Falls and the Great Lakes, chapters of which have appeared from time to time in the leading scientific journals, the first of which was printed in the proceedings of the American Philosophical Society of Philadelphia, in 1881. Since that time more complete chapters have appeared. These have been compiled into their natural (although not appearing in their chronological) sequence owing to the profound interest taken in research by Andrew H. Green, Esq., the president of the Commissioners of the State Reservation at Niagara, and are here published in order to give a scientific history of the great cataract of the world, so that the information may extend beyond the limit of a few specialists. The full history of the lakes has not yet been told, but enough is known to write a somewhat complete story of the Falls. To Mr. F. B. Taylor is due a special acknowledgment, among other contributions, for having recently given us details of the drainage of the Huron basin by way of the Nipissing Straits and the Ottawa valley before the waters of the upper lakes changed their drainage to the Niagara river, and thus accelerated the recession of the Falls.

THE AUTHOR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 1, 1894.*