

PREFATORY NOTE.

The particular subject of this book is the true nature, in a physical sense, of Light, and an examination of certain doctrines now taught in respect to it. The doctrine, now almost universally considered as authorized by science, known as the Undulatory Theory of Light is closely allied to the Wave Theory of Sound, upon the analogy to which, indeed, it is in a considerable measure based and supported. A part of the objections which we have to offer to the Undulatory Theory apply also to the Wave Theory of Sound, and it appears therefore desirable to put before the reader a brief examination of that important theory also. In order to do this without complicating the immediate argument on the subject of Light, the examination of the Wave Theory and observations on the nature of Sound will appear as a second division of this book, in which division we purpose also to supply certain facts from the record of Physical Science illustrating the arguments and conclusions on the subjects of Light and Sound in their relation to Physical Science.
