

EXPLANATORY.

It is said of the famous Scottish preacher, Dr. Guthrie, that his introductions were, at times, almost as long and quite as interesting and illuminating, as his discourses. However it may be with hearers, readers, as a rule, are content to place introductions in the necessary evils' class. The question may be asked: "What is the necessity of a book treating of Nova Scotia's minerals?" Have not Sir William Dawson, and Sir William Fairburn; the late loveable Hugh Fletcher and the living Faribault, imparted, in many treatises, all the information necessary, as to the provinces geology? Has not Richard Brown said almost the last word on the coal fields of Cape Breton? Has not the late H. S. Poole made an exhaustive study of the strata in the Pictou coal field, and Hind, laid bare the minerals of Cumberland County? Have not How, and Hartley and Gilpin, and others of note, told of what the province possesses of useful minerals? May be, but

What was written by the geologists was, is, for Scientists and mining experts. The words of this volume are not for these, particularly, but rather for capitalists, manufacturers, economists, and the public at large, among whom there is a very large number of very inquisitive people, some seized, at times, with a spirit of adventure, who having, mayhap, failed in an endeavor to make two blades of grass, instead of one, grow on the earth's surface, are eager to take a chance to add to their own and their country's advantage by delving and blasting in its bowels.

Since the passing of Dawson and the others much