

PREFACE

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living at a remote distance from each other and from me, to whom I take this occasion to express my grateful acknowledgments. The first of these gentlemen is my venerable and much-honored uncle, James Morton, Esq., of Clonmel, Ireland; the other, my friend William Maclure, Esq., late of this city, and now resident in Mexico, well known as the distinguished President of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. I claim, however, some merit for having commenced publication when my subscription list bore but fifteen names; and I persisted for a long time on my own resources, although frequently apprehensive that an enterprise which never had gain for its object, would add pecuniary loss to numberless vexations.

I do not even now consider my task as wholly completed. On the contrary the illustrations of the Mexican nations are too few for satisfactory comparison owing to the extreme difficulty of obtaining authentic crania of those people. This deficiency, however, is likely to be soon obviated by the kindness of some friends of science in Mexico; and these materials, when received, together with some that came to hand too late for use, and many others that are expected, will enable me to complete my design by the publication of a small *Supplementary Volume*; in which it will further be my aim to extend and revise both the Anatomical and Phrenological Tables, and to give basal views of at least a part of the crania delineated. I shall also take occasion to measure the anterior and posterior chambers of the skull in the four exotic races of men, in order to institute a comparison between them respectively, and between them and the American Race. But in order to accomplish this object, a very extended series of crania is of course indispensable; and the author therefore respectfully solicits the further aid of gentlemen interested in the cause of science, in procuring the *skulls of all nations*, and forwarding them to his address in this city. Nor can I close this preface without recording my sincere thanks to George R. Gliddon, Esq., United States Consul at Cairo, in Egypt, for the singular zeal with which he has promoted my wishes in this respect; the series of crania he has already obtained for my use, of many nations, both ancient and modern, is perhaps without a rival in any existing collection; and will enable me, when it reaches this country, to pursue my comparisons on an extended scale.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1, 1839.

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