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VOL. I.

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ON THE

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FISHES AND REPTILES.

BY

RICHARD OWEN, F.R.S.

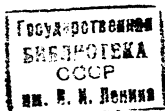
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PREFACE.

THE PRESENT WORK completes the outline of the Organisation of the Animal Kingdom which was begun in that on the Invertebrates.¹ They may be regarded as parts of a whole, having the same general aim, and, together, form a condensed summary of the subjects of my 'Lectures on Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, according to the Classes of Animals,' delivered in the Theatre of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in the years 1852, 1853, and 1854.

In the choice of facts, as then and since acquired by science, I have been guided by their authenticity and their applicability to general principles.

In the first, regard has been had to the agreement of several observers, or to the nature of the fact as making it acceptable on the testimony of a single expert. Appearances that require helps to vision are those that call for multiplied concurring testimony, and on such alone are offered the descriptions and illustrations of the microscopical characters of 'tissues' premised to most of the chapters.

In the second aim, the parts and organs, severally the subjects of these chapters, are exemplified by instances selected with a view to guide or help to the power of apprehending the unity which underlies the diversity of animal structures; to show in these structures the evidence of a predetermining Will, producing

¹ Lectures on the Comparative Anatomy and Physiology of the Invertebrate Animals, 8vo. 1843; 2nd ed. 8vo. 1855.