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PALEY'S NATURAL THEOLOGY.

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PALEY'S NATURAL THEOLOGY.

REVISED TO HARMONIZE WITH MODERN SCIENCE.

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PREFACE.

THE present edition of Paley's "Natural Theology" has been prepared at the request of the Society, the object proposed being an issue of this standard work, with such alterations in the illustrative part of the text as are required by the progress of science since the author's time. This remark will be found to apply chiefly to the anatomical and physiological illustrations, but not exclusively so. The natural history, in all its departments, has also been revised; indeed the revision has been extended throughout the volume. Yet care has been exercised not in any way to interfere with the general plan and argument of Paley, and to preserve his style and diction as much as possible: the deviations from the original text are such only as were rendered necessary to fulfil the condition on which the task was undertaken. This

has been accomplished by the omission or correction of errors, and by the substitution and addition of fresh illustrations where they appeared to be needed. It is hoped that the value of the work will be thereby enhanced, whilst its distinctive characteristics are retained without mutilation; and that the volume may be thus rendered more worthy of the high and just estimation in which it continues to be held. If the effort to accomplish this object be approved, less reserve may be exercised in a future edition, by drawing more liberally from the ever-expanding sphere of the physical sciences.

EDITOR.

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