

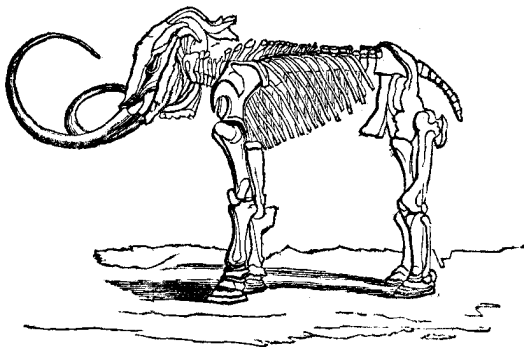
# THE GEOLOGIST;

A POPULAR

MONTHLY MAGAZINE

OF

# GEOLOGY.



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EDITED BY S. J. MACKIE, F.G.S., F.S.A.

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“Geology, in the magnitude and sublimity of the objects of which it treats, undoubtedly ranks in the scale of the sciences next to Astronomy.”—*Herschel: Discourse on Study of Natural Philosophy.*



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## PREFACE.

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WITH the new year I shall begin a new book, in the strong hope that more readers and more correspondents will join in aiding me in my earnest desire to popularize and to extend the noble science of geology without sacrificing, in any way, its proper dignity. The responsibility, to a conscientious mind, of a popular Magazine is not slight. Nothing once printed is innocuous or inert. There is a correlation of human passions and intellect, as of physical force, and the effects of the printed sentence may be felt in eternity. The newspaper, with all its learning, its daily interest, the labour, skill, and cost of its production, passes with the day which gave it birth, but the magazine is bound into a volume, and may be read again months or years afterwards, and become, as it often does, the first course of instruction to younger minds. To make, then, this Magazine something more than a mere mirror of passing events, has been my aim and object; and the reward of all my anxiety and care to which I have hopefully looked forward, has been to see it not only a welcome monthly visitor, but a cherished friend.

To my many friends I take this opportunity of offering my warmest thanks, but to none am I so much indebted as I am to my true and valued friend, Mr. T. Rupert Jones. For the communications of my numerous correspondents I would also return special thanks, and I desire again to express a hope that the humblest geologist in this or any other land will never hesitate to communicate anything that *he* thinks a new fact or a discovery. No one at my hands will ever meet with a rebuff for his want of knowledge or skill, and it will ever be to those only who deserve it that I shall apply or sanction the sharp words of censure.

In the interval before our monthly intercourse is resumed, the most genial season, and warmest of all the year in friendship and spirit—if the coldest in temperature—will have passed over, with the celebration of those cherished festivities in which few, indeed, willingly fail to participate.

In the expressions of good wishes at this convivial season, none will be more sincere than those which I now offer to the many friends and acquaintances which my literary labours of the past year have gathered round me.

S. J. MACKIE.

Tachbrook-street, Pimlico, Dec. 1858.