

## SUPPLEMENT BY THE EDITOR.

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

AN outline of the annual course of geological lectures in Yale College, was annexed to the former American edition of this work, published in 1829, and was designed, primarily, for the use of the students. That short tract, including important additions to facts and some modifications of opinion in regard to theory, would have been revised and annexed to the present edition, had not the principal work been so much augmented by the author, as to render it inexpedient to make it materially larger.

An elementary treatise, presenting a copious, but condensed, generalization of the geology of this continent, and sustained by numerous and precise facts, is a desideratum.

Mr. Maclure, many years ago, led the way by a masterly sketch, covering a large part of the United States, and of some of the adjacent provinces and islands.

Professor Eaton has given us many valuable facts, relating, principally, to the state of New York and to New England; and recently, Professor Hitchcock, with the advantage of all the lights held out by his predecessors, has ably detailed, in an octavo volume, the geology of Massachusetts.

We have many good memoirs on particular districts; they are to be found in scientific journals, in books of travels, especially of the scientific expeditions sent out by the American government, in the transactions of learned societies, in detached publications, and sometimes even in the newspapers. These materials are of great value; but much more must be done before they will be sufficiently copious to enable some master spirit to reduce the whole subject to order, and thus to give a full and digested account of American geology. Foreign geologists will do us the justice to remember, that our field is vast, while our laborers are comparatively few, and they are, generally, men occupied by other pursuits; this country is rarely explored by those whom fortune leaves at ease to follow a favorite pursuit. The learned leisure of Europe, and especially of England, is here almost unknown, and our most efficient cultivators of science are also laborers