

ADDRESS TO THE READER.

“Some Books are to be tasted—others to be swallowed—and some few to be chewed and digested; that is, some Books are to be read only in parts—others to be read, but not curiously—and some few to be read wholly, and with diligence and attention.”—LORD BACON'S ESSAYS.

ANXIOUS that the “COURTEOUS READER”* should derive from this work all the information it is designed to impart, the Author presumes to offer a few words in explanation of the plan upon which it has been constructed, and some suggestions as to the best means of rendering its contents most available to the varied tastes and pursuits of different classes of readers.

In its arrangement, a three-fold object was had in view; namely, in the first place, to present such an epitome of Palæontology, or the science which treats of the fossil remains of the ancient inhabitants of the Globe, as shall enable the intelligent reader † fully to comprehend the nature of the principal discoveries in modern Geology; and the method of investigating natural phenomena, by which such

* “And still more COURTEOUS PURCHASER.”—*Lord Byron.*

† “INTELLIGENT READER:” for, as an able Critic in the *Athenæum* has shrewdly observed, there can be no “Geology for Beginners;” we should know something of the *natural world as it is*, before we attempt to pry into the mysteries of the world *as it was*.