

a work that would exemplify the nature of the investigations I have been tracing during the last ten years, and show what is likely to be the character of the whole series. I have aimed, therefore, in preparing these two volumes, to combine them in such a manner as that they should form a whole. The First Part contains an exposition of the general views I have arrived at, thus far, in my studies of Natural History. The Second Part shows how I have attempted to apply these results to the special study of Zoölogy, taking the order of Testudinata as an example. I believe, that, in America, where Turtles are everywhere common and greatly diversified, a student could not make a better beginning than by a careful perusal of this part of my work, specimens in hand, with constant reference to the second chapter of the First Part. The Third Part exemplifies the bearing of Embryology upon these general questions, while it contains the fullest illustration of the embryonic growth of the Testudinata.

As stated above, I have received contributions from every part of the country, and upon the most diversified subjects, relating to my studies, which I shall mention in their proper place in the course of the publication of my work, and give to all due credit for their assistance. For the present, I must limit myself to returning my special thanks to those who have materially contributed to the preparation of the first two volumes, now about to be published together.

Above all, I must mention the Smithsonian Institution, whose officers, in the true spirit of its founder, have largely contributed to the advancement of my researches, by forwarding to me for examination, not only all the specimens of Testudinata collected for the museum of the Institution, but also those brought to Washington by the naturalists of the different parties that have explored the western territories, or crossed the continent with the view of determining the best route for the Pacific Railroad. These specimens have enabled me to determine the geographical distribution of this order of Reptiles with a degree of precision which I could not have attained without this assistance. Besides this, Professor J. Henry, the liberal Secretary of the Institution, has caused special collections of Turtles to be made for me in those parts of the country from which I had few or no specimens, and Professor Baird has spared no pains to carry out these benevolent intentions. I have also received from Professor Baird a number of interesting specimens, which he himself collected during his extensive excursions. To these gentlemen, therefore, I am indebted in the highest degree. Other public institutions have also afforded me valuable assistance. In Philadelphia, I have been able to compare the specimens of the museum of the Academy of Natural Sciences, which contains the originals of the great work of Dr. Holbrook on the Reptiles of North America. The Trustees of the University of Oxford, in Mississippi, have intrusted to me, at the request of Dr. L. Harper, the Reptiles of the State Survey for examination; and besides these, I have received many valuable specimens from that State, through Prof. B. L. Wailes. Prof. Alexander Winchell has also sent me