

**THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE: OR
INTERESTING FACTS IN ASTRONOMY,
CHEMISTRY,
GEOLOGY, HISTORY, PHYSIOLOGY,
AGRICULTURE, DOMESTIC ECONOMY,
MECHANIC ARTS, &C., &C.**

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COTESWORTH PINCKNEY

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IN

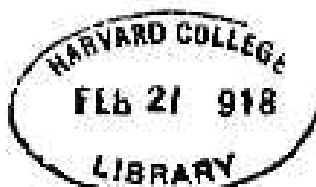
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P R E F A C E .

IF it be true that "knowledge is power," then he who neglects to provide himself with this element of moral strength, should not complain if he be compelled to eat the fruit of his own imbecility. Almost every variety of learning is scattered broadcast over the land, and it only needs the diligent and observant student to cull and preserve the choice gems, so liberally strewed in his path. One of the most popular and effective writers and lecturers, upon scientific subjects, in the metropolis of New England, has made himself so, mainly by his diligent habit of preserving and arranging the various items of knowledge which have from time to time, fallen in his way. How much valuable information might be secured every year, from any well conducted newspaper, if pains were taken to preserve and arrange the valuable articles therein contained. In this miniature Book of Knowledge, it cannot, of course, be expected that there will be long and elaborate treatises upon scientific subjects; but we trust our articles are of a such length, and

of such a character, that while the busy shall find sufficient time to read them, the idle may muster patience. While they are not such as to demand severe thought or patient inquiry, yet they embrace many important facts in late discoveries which are both instructive and entertaining. The field, over which we have roamed, is both beautiful and boundless. We catch a glance at Astronomy, with its far off worlds; and at Geology, which every day brings up fresh wonders from the depths of the mine, or caves of the deep; and at Chemistry, acquainting us with the various elements and properties of material bodies. — There too is Botany, with its wild flowers and its gardens of beauty and bloom. There is Electricity, showing us how, with Franklin, we may “grasp the lightning’s fiery wing.” There is Physiology, unfolding to us the structure of the inferior tribes, and the mechanism of our own frame, so “fearfully and wonderfully made.” These, and kindred themes, whose tendency is to refine the taste, exalt the imagination, and instruct the intellect, are the topics embraced in the following pages.

C. P.

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