

**THE PUZZLE OF LIFE AND HOW IT HAS BEEN
PUT TOGETHER. A SHORT HISTORY OF
VEGETABLE AND ANIMAL LIFE UPON
THE EARTH FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES,
INCLUDING AN ACCOUNT OF PRE-HISTORIC
MAN, HIS WEAPONS, TOOLS, AND WORKS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649530823

The Puzzle of Life and How It Has Been Put Together. A Short History of Vegetable and Animal Life upon the Earth from the Earliest Times, Including an Account of Pre-Historic Man, His Weapons, Tools, and Works by Arthur Nicols

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

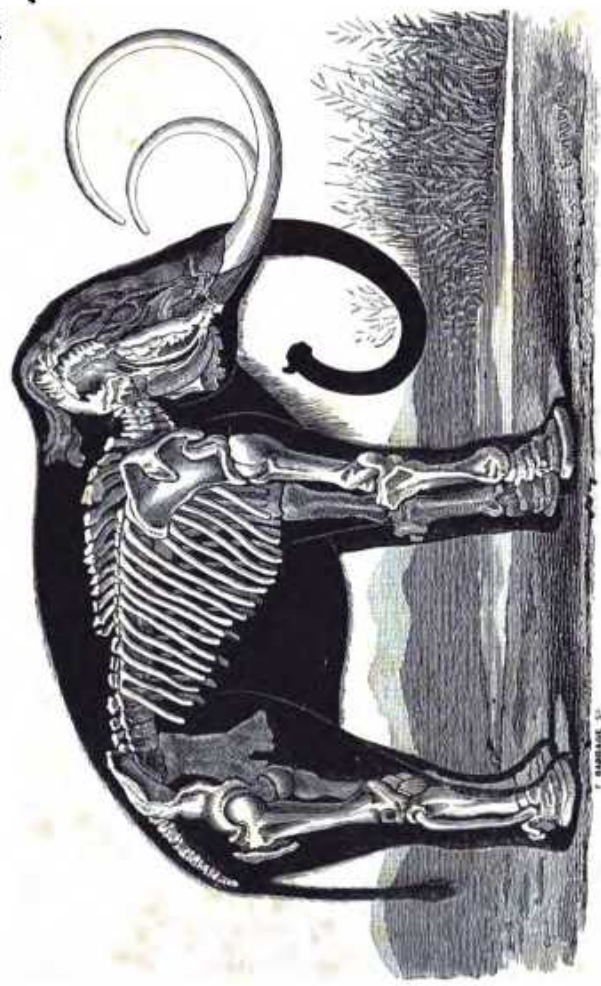
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Frontispiece



J. HAMILTON, SC.

The Mammoth

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BY

ARTHUR NICOLS, F.R.G.S.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS by FREDERICK BODDY.



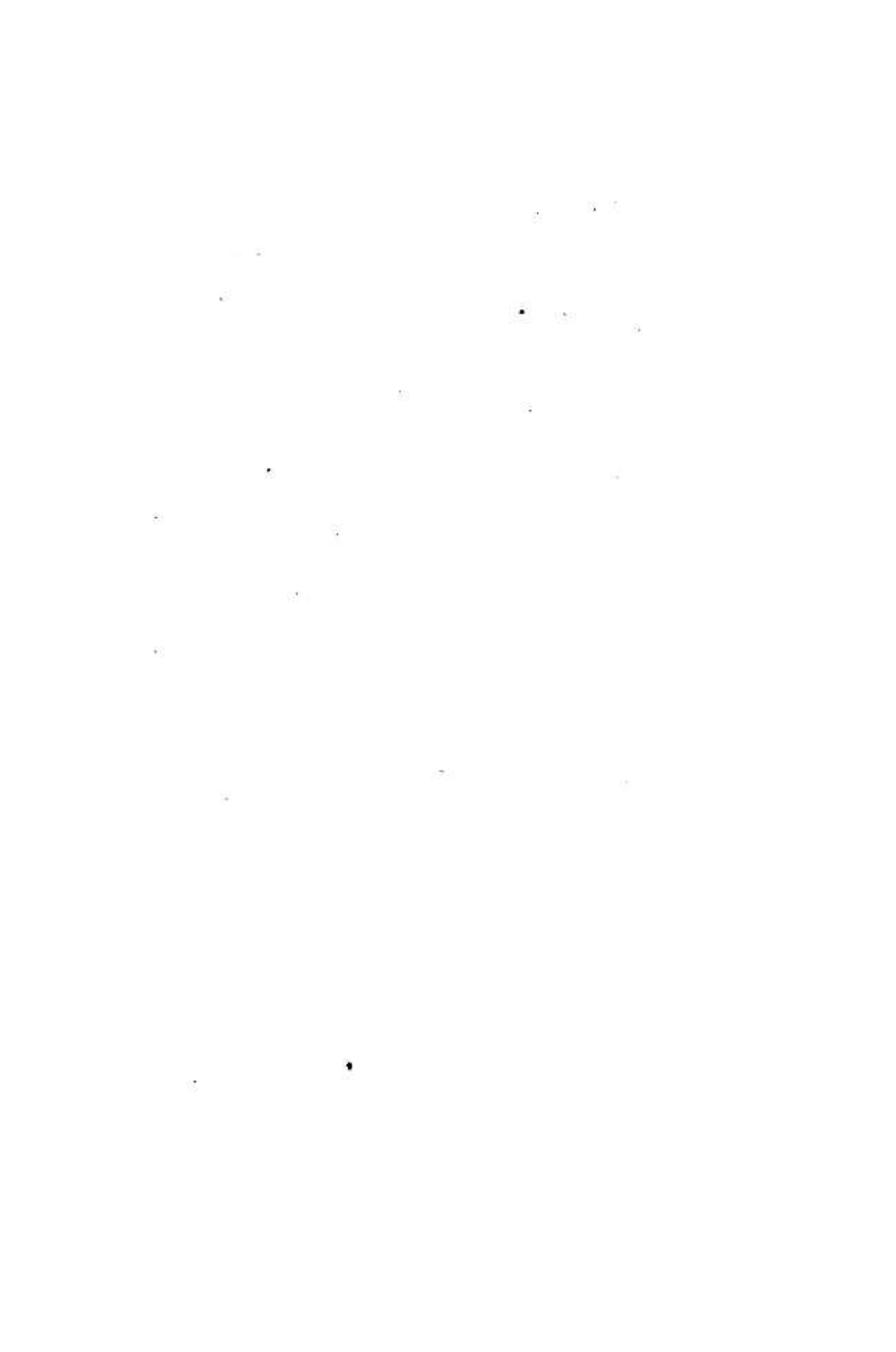
LONDON:
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.

1877.

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188. 4. 47.

TO
MY YOUNG FRIENDS
BEATRIX, GUY, SYLVIA, MAY, AND GERALD,
THE CHILDREN OF
GEORGE DU MAURIER.



PREFACE.

HAVING found that children could be interested in the history of life upon the Earth, and that it appealed forcibly to their understanding, I considered that a little book upon the subject might give them the taste for more extended study in after years. The difficulty of treating the, to them, novel conclusions of geology, often founded on abstract reasoning, in language at once simple in form yet stating clearly the great principles upon which this reasoning rests, will probably be apparent on every page. Breadth, rather than minuteness, has been aimed at, in the belief that a general view, not overcrowded with details, is likely

to be the most impressive. Thus, in the geological part the leading features of the succession of strata have been preserved, but no details of systematic classification entered into. Similarly, Primeval Man is considered mainly with reference to gradual progress from a rude to a more civilized condition. To have been more explicit, where there is still much difference of opinion, would have obscured the main facts of the evidence for man's great antiquity. I have not thought it advisable to follow the example of some popular writers on scientific subjects, in distorting the grand view of Creation opened by geology, by obscuring it in the mist of romance. Children soon begin to look with contempt on fiction when applied to natural philosophy, and I would not consciously impose on them the grave task of unlearning anything. Some superficial interest may be thus lost, but with the growth of the