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To the memory of the late Sir Wyville Thomson, under whose direction this work was commenced, I would pay the tribute of sincere and personal esteem, repeating—not inaptly as it seems to me—the words used by the Danish naturalist, Abildgaard, in writing of his friend, the first great dredger, Otho Frederick Müller, "Loquuntur Eius scripta cum mundo peritura."