

**ANCIENT MINERALOGY: OR, AN
INQUIRY RESPECTING MINERAL
SUBSTANCES MENTIONED BY
THE ANCIENTS; WITH OCCASIONAL
REMARKS ON THE USES TO WHICH THEY
WERE APPLIED**

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By N. F. MOORE, LL.D.

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PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

THE author is aware that in venturing upon a scientific theme he transcends the limits of his province, but he relies for indulgence on the fact that his subject is considered chiefly in the light in which it presents itself in the writings of those ancients whom it is his proper business to interpret.* It is, moreover, possible for one who makes no pretension to original discovery—who, far from being a proficient, is himself a learner, to collect from various quarters, and arrange, what may contribute to the entertainment or instruction of others who want leisure or opportunity for similar pursuits. And if in the performance of this task he occasionally fail, he may reasonably hope to find in those whom superior knowledge qualifies to aid

* The author was professor of the Greek and Latin languages in Columbia College at that time.

him, not severe censors, but indulgent friends. As such, then, does the author look to the learned and scientific, for benevolent suggestions, that may enable him, perhaps, at some future time, to render this, now very imperfect essay, somewhat less unworthy their regard.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

AFTER an interval of four-and-twenty years is brought out this second edition of "Ancient Mineralogy," not because the author thinks there is any call for it, but chiefly with a view to his own personal gratification; that he may enjoy the satisfaction it will afford him to leave his little work in a somewhat more comely and creditable shape. He is aware that the mass of readers will care little about the shape in which a work of this sort, wherein they can feel so little interest, may appear; but, though conscious of its many imperfections, and how little he has accomplished of the much that might be done in the direction he has followed, he will not despair of his book's finding, in a certain class of readers, a considerable number to whom it will be acceptable: to them he would recommend it, humbly hoping that they will read it with the indulgence it requires.

ANCIENT MINERALOGY.

ONE who professes his intention to treat of Ancient Mineralogy may well anticipate some objection to the term, and that it will perhaps be asked, "What is meant by *Ancient Mineralogy*? Mineralogy is a science with which the *ancients* were wholly unacquainted." And certainly they were so, if we understand—what the term now implies—a well-digested classification and systematic arrangement of all known substances that compose the mineral world. But, in regard as well to Mineralogy as to Botany, Chemistry, and other branches of Natural Science, it will hardly be denied that the ancients possessed much and various information; although, on the other hand, it may be granted that they had little *science*, according to the modern acceptation of the term. Aristotle was a good zoologist, and Theophrastus a good botanist and mineralogist, notwithstanding their ignorance of modern systems; and they