PREFACE.

This work is designed as a sequel, or companion, to my History of the State of South Carolina. In separating the political and social from the geographical history of the state, the object was to simplify the subject, and so to preserve unbroken the stream of narrative in the former work, as to make its perusal by the youthful reader, a pleasure rather than a task. A publication more immediately contemplating the statistical resources and physical character of the country, seems necessary in every point of view, as well to the student as the citizen. This publication, it is hoped, will meet the requisitions of the two. The materials for such a work are very copious. Perhaps no state in the Union has been more accurately surveyed, or is so excellently illustrated by maps. The liberality of the legislature, which has contributed largely to the latter, and the industry of Mr. Robert Mills, whose elaborate work on the statistics of the state has been freely made use of by the writer of this, have left us no reason to complain of any deficiencies. Indeed, the only difficulty in the preparation of such a compend as the following, is to know what portions will best bear contraction, and in what respects omissions will be least detrimental to the value of the work. The late census of the state, taken by the local
authorities, enables us to speak with more elaborate certainty on the subject of the several district statistics, their population, pursuits and products; and the greatly increased energies of the agricultural departments provides us with additional facts and suggestions, which must prove of equal and important interest to the learner and inquirer.

I take leave to inscribe this little volume