

*Megapodius*). The singular runs or bowers of the *Chlamyderæ* were considered by some explorers to be the cradles of the infants of the aborigines, and the mounds of the *Megapodius* to be tumuli, errors which have been rectified in the present work.

It is not to be supposed that an undertaking of such magnitude as the present could have been brought to a successful termination by the unaided efforts of a single individual, and I have, therefore, very great pleasure in stating that my views were most ably seconded by every one with whom the nature of my investigations brought me in contact; but by none more than by the Rev. Thomas James Ewing, who, besides manifesting the warmest friendship, has ever taken especial interest in promoting the success of the present work; nor must I omit to mention R. C. Gunn, Esq., Lieut. Breton, R.N., the Hon. Henry Elliot, Aide-du-camp to the Governor, Lieut. Friend, R.N., and Captain Booth, all of Van Diemen's Land. In New South Wales my best thanks are due to George Bennett, Esq., who, like Mr. Ewing, favoured me with his warmest friendship, and evinced an equal anxiety for the success of my undertaking; the Messrs. James and William M'Arthur, of Camden; the Messrs. Stephen and Charles Coxen, of Yarrundi; Charles Throsby, Esq., of Bong-bong; Alexander and William S. MacLeay, Esqs.; Captain P. P. King, and many others. Much valuable information has been communicated to me by George Grey, Esq. (now Governor of New Zealand), whose exertions during his expedition along the north-western coasts of Australia were characterized by a degree of energy of character and perseverance but rarely equalled; whose ornithological collection made during this arduous enterprise, although small, was by no means destitute of interest; and who, upon succeeding Colonel Gawler in the Governorship of South Australia, found time amidst his multifarious occupations to devote considerable attention to Natural History, and to send me some interesting drawings and other details respecting the mounds raised by the *Leipoa*, &c. In South Australia I received many acts of kind attention and assistance from my friend Captain Sturt, whom I accompanied on one of his expeditions into the interior; and I have much pleasure in acknowledging my obligations to Mr. Eyre, now Lieut.-Governor of New Zealand, and the late J. B. Harvey, Esq.

Nor must I conclude my acknowledgements of the kindness of those who have rendered me their aid, without especially recording the liberality of the Right Hon. The Earl of Derby, who has at all times most readily submitted to my inspection every collection of which he has become the possessor, and allowed me the free use of any objects desirable for the enhance-