

P R E F A C E.



IN fulfilment of the promise made by the Publishers to the Subscribers, and in accordance with the intention of the late Mr. GOULD, the present work has been brought to a close with the issue of the Twenty-fifth Part. For the last thirteen of these parts, which have appeared since the author's death, I have been solely responsible, as will be seen by the initials appended to the foot of each article; and I greatly regret that the pledges given to the Subscribers have necessitated the curtailment of the work at a period when the development of European enterprise in New Guinea and the neighbouring islands seems to point to the discovery of many new and highly interesting birds. The recent finding of two beautiful new Birds of Paradise in North-eastern New Guinea must be the forerunner of many other discoveries, and it is to be hoped that the Subscribers will feel sufficient interest in the subject to warrant the continuation of the present work, so that the Avifauna of Papuasias may be completely illustrated. Should such a wish be expressed, I shall be only too happy to continue the work.

R. BOWDLER SHARPE.

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