

INTRODUCTION.

THE Joint Committee of the Library of Congress entered into an engagement with the undersigned, in 1851, to prepare the Report upon the Herpetological collections made by the United States Exploring Expedition. Finding that other duties would interfere with the proper performance of the work, he was permitted to associate Dr. Girard with him in its execution; by whom the determinations and descriptions have been made, the drawings overlooked, and the work carried through the press.

S. F. BAIRD.

WASHINGTON, May, 1858.