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Mary Somerville (1780–1872) would have been a remarkable woman in any age, but as an acknowledged leading mathematician and astronomer at a time when the education of most women was extremely restricted, her achievement was extraordinary. Laplace famously told her that ‘There have been only three women who have understood me. These are yourself, Mrs Somerville, Caroline Herschel and a Mrs Greig of whom I know nothing.’ Mary Somerville was in fact Mrs Greig. After (as she herself said) translating Laplace’s work ‘from algebra into common language’, she wrote *On the Connexion of the Physical Sciences* (1834), also reissued in this series. Her next book, the two-volume *Physical Geography* (1848), was a synthesis of geography, geology, botany and zoology, drawing on the most recent discoveries in all these fields to present an overview of current understanding of the natural world and the Earth’s place in the universe.

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Physical Geography

VOLUME 1

MARY SOMERVILLE



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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108005203

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1848
This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00520-3 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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Mary Somerville

From a drawing by James R. Norton. Cop. 1848.

London: John Murray, 2008. Available online, 2018.

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PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

BY

MARY SOMERVILLE,

AUTHOR OF THE “CONNEXION OF THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES,”
“MECHANISM OF THE HEAVENS.”

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

WITH A PORTRAIT.



LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET.

—
1848.

TO

SIR JOHN F. W. HERSCHEL, BART., K.H.,

&c. &c.

DEAR SIR JOHN,

I AVAIL myself with pleasure of your permission to dedicate my book to you, as it gives me an opportunity of expressing my admiration of your talents, and my sincere estimation of your friendship.

I remain, with great regard,

Yours truly,

MARY SOMERVILLE.

London, 29th February, 1848.

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