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Philip Henry Gosse
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Land and Sea

Philip Henry Gosse (1810–88) is best remembered today for the portrait given by his son Edmund in his autobiographical *Father and Son*. In his own day, he was famous as a natural historian, and his books were extremely popular. (His *Naturalist's Sojourn in Jamaica* is also reissued in this series.) In 1857, Gosse moved from London to Devon, where he spent the rest of his life. This 1865 book offers essays about various aspects of the geography and natural history of the West Country. There are some digressions (one chapter is on the woods of Jamaica), and reminders of the two great Victorian crazes, for ferns and for seashore life, which Gosse's writings partly instigated. In his final essay, on Dartmoor, is an appendix which argues that Britain is the biblical Tarshish – a reminder that Gosse was also a fundamentalist Christian who struggled with many aspects of contemporary science.

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BY

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P R E F A C E.

THIS volume has no particular *subject*. Its contents pretend to no connexion, no continuity: each of the Papers must be read as perfectly isolated from all the rest. Several of them, indeed, are pen-pictures of associated scenes, and of kindred things that have occurred in them. Others touch of kindred things that occur elsewhere. The whole may be likened to a handful of sketches taken at random out of one artist's portfolio.

TORQUAY, *December* 1864.

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