PREFACE.

Ten years have passed since the suggestion that the writer should prepare a guide to the plants of the provinces under his rule was first made by Sir Charles Elliott. The work could not, however, be undertaken till the Flora of British India was finished; since then it has occupied the scanty leisure of the writer, who has received much encouragement from Sir Joseph Hooker, Sir George King, and Sir John Woodburn to carry it to completion.

Its many imperfections—due in some measure to the fact that dies fasti ac seriati have alone been available for its preparation, and that on these it could only receive divided attention—must have been more numerous had not Sir George King, with a kindness which nothing can repay, read the final proofs.

The key to the species of Polygonum was drawn up by the writer's friend, Captain A. T. Gage. The need for an Appendix is mainly the result of a practical interest in the progress of this work on the part of Mr. J. H. Lace and Mr. H. H. Haines, who have communicated records of species unknown to the Lower Provinces when its preparation began. The writer is also much indebted to Messrs. West, Newman & Co., of London, for the care they have exercised, at so great a distance, in printing its pages.

Calcutta: March, 1903.