

xvi THE LIFE OF COUNT DE BUFFON.

In 1771 his History of Birds began to appear. In the composition of this work he made great use of the labours of Montbeillard, who was the principal writer of the two first quarto volumes. The four subsequent ones were the joint production of both writers. The three last were written by Buffon himself, with the assistance of the Abbé Bexon, in forming the nomenclature, and drawing up the descriptions.

In 1774 he began to publish a "Supplement" to his Natural History, consisting of the "History of Minerals."

These are the principal works of this great author. They are published together in 31 volumes, 4to. and 92 volumes, 12mo.* They are received among the standard and classical books of his country.

* A recent edition has been published at Paris, edited by Sonnini, consisting of 114 volumes. It contains numerous additions on every subject, and descriptions of many new birds and quadrupeds discovered since the time of Buffon. This magnificent and expensive work has been procured by the proprietors of the present translation, for the purpose of collating every page.