

Demaillet covered the whole globe with water for thousands of years; he caused those waters gradually to retire; all terrestrial animals had at first been marine; man himself was at first a fish; and the author assures his readers that it is not uncommon to find in the ocean fishes which have only become half men, but which will some day become entire human beings. (1)

The system of Buffon is only a development of that of Leibnitz, with the sole addition of a comet, which produced from the sun, by a violent shock, the liquefied mass of the earth, together with all the planets: whence result his positive data, for by the actual temperature of the earth we can calculate how long a time has elapsed since it grew cool; and, since the other planets came from the sun at the same time as the earth, we may reckon how many ages must elapse before the larger ones cool, and to what extent the smaller ones have become refrigerated. (2)

THE LATEST SYSTEMS.

In our times imagination has exercised itself with more freedom than before on this important subject. Some writers have reproduced and greatly extended the ideas of Demaillet; they say, that at first, every thing was in a state of liquefaction; that the liquid at first engendered animals of the simplest kind, such as *monads* and others of the infusory and microscopic species, that in the progress of time, and in assuming different habits, the animalia complicated and diversified their species to the extent which we now have in existence. It is these animals who have converted the waters

(1) Telliamed. Amster. 1748.

(2) Théorie de la Terre, 1749; et Epoques de la Nature, 1775.