

of the bone, the smallest apophysis, have a determined character, relative to the class, the order, the genus, and even the species to which they belong; so that whenever we have only the extremity of a well-preserved bone, we may, by scrutinizing it, and applying analogical skill and close comparison, determine all these things as certainly as if we had the whole animal. I have often in this way experimented on portions of known animals, before I entirely applied the test to fossils; but it has always had such infallible success, that I have no longer any doubt on the certainty of the results which it has afforded.

It is true that I have been in possession of all the assistance which was necessary for me; and my situation and assiduous search for nearly thirty years* have procured for me skeletons of every genus and kind of quadrupeds, and even of many species in certain genera, and many individuals in certain species. With such means, I have had much ease in multiplying my comparisons, and of verifying, in all their details, the applications that I made of my laws.

We cannot now dwell longer on this method, and are compelled to refer to the larger comparative anatomy which we shall soon produce, and which will contain all these rules. However, an intelligent reader will be still able to derive a vast many from the work on fossil bones, if he will take the trouble to follow all the applications there laid down. He will see that it is by this method alone that we have been guided, and have always found it sufficient to classify each bone with its species, when it was a living species; to its genera, when it was of an unknown