

and pointed out by M. de Schlotheim, were said to have been extracted from very ancient beds; but this respectable naturalist is desirous of making known

the Antilles, and are called by the negroes *maçonne-bon-dieu*. Their accumulation is the more rapid in proportion as the sea is more violent. They have extended the plain of the Cayes to San Domingo, whose situation is somewhat similar to that of the Plage du Moule, and sometimes fragments of vessels of human workmanship are found at a depth of twenty feet from the surface. A thousand conjectures have been made, and events have even been imagined to account for these skeletons of Guadeloupe; but, after all these circumstances, M. Moreau de Jonnés, corresponding member of the Academy of Science, who has visited the place, and to whom I am indebted for all this detail, is of opinion that they are only the carcasses of persons who have been shipwrecked. They were discovered in 1805, by Manuel Cortes y Campomanes, at that time a staff officer in the service of that colony. General Ernouf, the governor, had one extracted with much care. It even had the head and nearly all the upper extremities. It was left at Guadeloupe, with hopes of getting one more complete, and then to send the two to Paris; but when the island was taken by the English, admiral Cochrane, having found this skeleton at head quarters, sent it to the English Admiralty, who presented it to the British Museum. It is now in that collection, and M. Kœnig, keeper of the mineralogical department, described it in the Philosophical Transactions of 1814, and I saw it there in 1818. M. Kœnig remarks, that the stone in which it is embedded has not been cut, but seems to have been simply inserted as a distinct kernel in the surrounding mass. The skeleton is so superficial, that its presence must have been visible from the projection of some of the bones. They still contain *some of the animal matter, and the whole of their phosphate of lime*. The rock, entirely composed of parcels of coral and compact lime-stone, is easily dissolved in nitric acid. M. Kœnig has detected fragments of the *millepora miniacea* of some madrepores and shells, which he compares to the *helix acuta* and *turbopica*. More recently, general Donzelot has extracted another of these skeletons, now in the cabinet of the king, of which we give an engraving. It is a body with bent knees. A portion of the upper jaw is still left, the left half of the lower, nearly all one side of the trunk and pelvis, and a great part of the upper extremity, and the lower left extremities. The rock in which it is embedded is certainly travertin, in which are embed-