

that at Rome the keepers of the museums felt some alarm in admitting him. In society, too, things, whatever they might be, affected him on one side only. For instance, when an Englishman was recounting at the house of the Duchesse d'Anville the then recent thrilling incident in Cook's first voyage, when his vessel, pierced by a point of rock, was only saved from sinking by the stone breaking off and remaining fixed in the hole, every one present expressed in his own way the interest he felt in the story. Desmarest, however, quietly inquired whether the rock was basaltic or calcareous.

A character so little affected by external things was naturally immovable in regard to relations and habits. From the earliest days when he began to be known, he had been engaged to pass his Sundays at Auteuil with a friend. Ever afterwards he would appear there on the usual day, even when his friend was dead, and when age no longer allowed him to enjoy the country; and as he had from the first gone on foot, he always went there on foot until he was eighty-five years old. All that his family could then prevail upon him to do was to take a carriage.

Nor was he less constant in more trivial affairs. Never did he dine or go to bed later one day than another. Nobody remembered ever to have seen him change the cut of his clothes, and down to his last days his wig and his coat recalled the fashions in vogue under the Cardinal de Fleury.

After recalling his kindness and helpfulness to poor inventors, for whom he ever evinced the heartiest sympathy, his biographer concludes in eloquent words,