To the Abbé J. L. Giraud-Soulavie (1752-1813) the merit must be assigned of having planted the first seeds from which the magnificent growth of stratigraphical geology in France has sprung. Among other works, he wrote a *Natural History of Southern France* in seven volumes, of which the first two appeared in the year 1780. He gave much of his attention to the old volcanoes of his native country, and devoted several of his volumes entirely to their description. But his chief claim to notice here lies in a particular chapter of his work which, he tells us, was read before the Royal Academy of Sciences of Paris on 14th August 1779.[1] In describing the calcareous mountains of the Vivarais, he divided the limestones into five epochs or ages, the strata in each of which are marked by a distinct assemblage of fossil shells. The first of these ages, he declared, was represented by limestone containing organic remains with no living analogues, such as ammonites, belemnites, terebratulæ, gryphites, etc. Having no more ancient strata in the district, the Abbé called this oldest limestone primordial. His second age was indicated by limestone, in which the fossils of the preceding epoch were still found, but associated with some others now living in our seas. Among the new forms of life that appeared in these secondary strata he enumerated chamas, mussels, comb-shells, nautili, etc. These, he said, inhabited the sea, together with survivors from the first age, but the latter at the end of the second age disappeared.

[1] *Histoire Naturelle de la France Méridionale*, tome i. 2me partie, chap. viii. p. 317.