

printed at the expense of the Government and it at once placed its author in a prominent position among the naturalists of the day. Buffon's friendship proved a valuable aid to him in various ways, and doubtless helped to secure his speedy election into the Academy of Sciences. But he still remained exceedingly poor, and had a hard struggle to support himself and the family that was now growing up around him.

From the time of the appearance of the *Flore Française* Lamarck continued for fifteen years to work mainly at botanical subjects, contributing papers to the Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences, and producing the successive botanical volumes in the great *Encyclopédie Méthodique*. These labours had raised him into the front rank of botanists, but they did not make the tenure of his appointment so secure that he had not to defend his position. He was compelled to publish a statement of the nature and importance of the duties he had to perform, and at the same time he urged that more ample provision should be made for the scientific work of the Museum and Garden. The National Convention took up the matter, and in the summer of 1793 reorganised and enlarged the establishment. Of the twelve new chairs then founded, the botanical appointments were naturally bestowed on the two senior distinguished botanists of the staff, Jussieu and Desfontaines, while Lamarck was offered one of the chairs of zoology. When it is remembered that he was now verging on 50 years of age, and that he had never paid much attention to zoological matters, but had given up his time and energies to botany, one may