

and influence to which Lamarck's splendid abilities and achievements justly entitled him among his contemporaries. During the last ten years of his long life he suffered from total blindness, and had to rely on the affectionate devotion of his eldest daughter for the completion of such works as he had in progress before his eyesight failed. The world is becoming more conscious now of what it owes to the genius of this illustrious naturalist. Among those students of science who have most reason to cherish his memory, geologists should look back gratefully to his services in starting the science of Palæontology, in propounding the doctrine of evolution and in affirming with great insight some of the fundamental principles of modern geology.

Returning now to the Paris basin, we may take note that not until the year 1808 was the Tertiary stratigraphy of this district worked out in some detail, so as to furnish a foundation for the establishment of a general system of stratigraphical geology in France. This task was accomplished by two men who have left their mark upon the history of the science, Cuvier and Brongniart.

Georges Chrétien Leopold Dagobert Cuvier (1769-1832) came of an old Protestant family in the Jura, which in the sixteenth century had fled from persecution and had settled at Montbéliard, then the chief town of a little principality belonging to the Duke of Würtemberg. He was born at that place on 23rd August 1769, and after a singularly brilliant career at school and at the Caroline Academy of Stuttgart, became tutor in a Normandy family living near Fécamp. He had been drawn into the study of natural history,