

The youngest formation which they described was the alluvium of the valleys, with bones of elephants and trunks of trees.

Subsequent research has slightly altered and greatly elaborated the arrangement made by Cuvier and Brongniart of the successive Tertiary formations of the Paris basin. But although the subdivision of the strata into definite stratigraphical and palæontological platforms has been carried into far greater detail, the broad outlines traced by them remain as true now as they were when first sketched a century ago. These two great men not merely marked out the grouping of the formations in a limited tract of country. They established on a basis of accurate observation the principles of palæontological stratigraphy. They demonstrated the use of fossils for the determination of geological chronology, and they paved the way for the enormous advances which have since been made in this department of science. For these distinguished labours they deserve an honoured place among the Founders of Geology. Cuvier's contributions to zoology, palæontology, and comparative anatomy were so numerous and important that his share in the establishment of correct stratigraphy is apt to be forgotten. But his name must ever be bracketed with that of Brongniart for the service rendered to geology by their conjoint work among the Tertiary deposits of the Paris basin.

Although Cuvier's researches among fossil animals, and the principles of comparative anatomy which he promulgated, contributed powerfully towards the