

to-day could have sufficed for the accomplishment of her ancient works.”¹

The contrast between these opinions and those of Lamarck on the same subject could not fail to impress the minds of their contemporaries. Cuvier was a Cataclysmist, Lamarck an Evolutionist. The former by his brilliant style, his social charm, and his influential position commanded the attention of the world, so that his geological volume, though views which it specially advocated have long since been abandoned, went through a number of successive editions, besides being translated into English and German. It became, indeed, one of the chief portals through which the ordinary reader of the day made his acquaintance with the science of geology. Lamarck's little *Hydro-géologie*, on the other hand, met with no such success. Though in many respects, in spite of its occasional extravagance, a more philosophical treatise than Cuvier's, it never reached a second edition, has never been reprinted, and has almost sunk out of sight.

Notwithstanding the prominence assigned by Cuvier to great cataclysms in the past history of our planet, he recognised that there has been, on the whole, an upward progress among the races of animals that have successively flourished upon the earth. The oviparous quadrupeds, for instance, preceded the viviparous. But, unlike Lamarck, he set his face against evolution, and refused to admit that the existing races can be modifications of ancient forms, brought about by local circumstances, change of climate or other causes; for if any such evolution had taken place, he claimed

¹ *Discours Préliminaire*, p. xiii.