

tents : and little dreams any one, save the professed geologist, what a mine lies hid, in those confused heaps of ruin, for the exercise of man's intellectual faculties. Few subjects indeed have afforded ampler scope for philosophical reflection. In proof of which, I need do no more than refer to the labours and ingenuity of Cuvier on the continent, and of Professor Buckland in our own country : of whom the one, by a scientific examination of the organic remains of gravel beds, in addition to those of some of the regular strata, has brought to light not only numerous individual species, but whole families of animals, which have ceased to exist ages and ages since : and the other, with no less labour and ingenuity, has all but exhibited some of these animals to our view in the very act of devouring and digesting their food.

How often, and with what intense interest, has not the scientific geologist perused the original essays of Cuvier ; in which, setting out from the casual observation of a simple fragment of a fossil bone belonging to some extinct species, he has established not only the class and order, but even the size and proportions of the individual to which it belonged, and the general nature of its food. And how often, in addition to professed geologists, has not an attentive audience of academical students listened with admiration to the clear and vivid eloquence of the other of those