

culties attendant on it, even in the present splendid era of philosophical discovery, I need only refer to the following acknowledgment of Cuvier, Aristotle's great rival in this department of natural science, contained in the Preface of the "*Règne Animal*." He there at once confesses, with reference to his own work, that it would have been utterly impossible for any insulated individual, however long his life, and however great his leisure, to complete a systematic classification of animals on the principle of conformity of structure (which, it should be observed, is Aristotle's leading principle as well as his own); that he should not even have been enabled to offer the present simple sketch, had not the advantages of his situation compensated for his want of time and talent. Surrounded as he was by so many accomplished Naturalists; deriving information from their works at the moment of their publication; and having as free access to their collections as to his own; a great part of his labour necessarily consisted, he affirms, in the application of so many and such rich materials to his present essay.

He accordingly acknowledges his obligations to Geoffroy, Levaillant, Opper and Blainville, Lacepede, and Lamarck, in the respective departments of quadrupeds, birds, reptiles, fish, and testaceous animals; all which classes of