

accordingly proportioned the clearness of each part, to the desire which he had of being understood by a greater or less number of readers.

Few men were so laborious as he, or with such continued regularity. He appeared to command his ideas, rather than be carried away by them. Born with a constitution, at once healthy and robust, faithful to the principle of employing all his faculties, until fatigue informed him that he was injuring them; his mind was always ready to execute the task which he had assigned: he loved to labour most in the country: he had placed his cabinet at the extremity of a vast garden, on the top of a hill; there he passed whole mornings, sometimes writing in this solitary retreat, sometimes meditating in the walks of the garden, whose entrance was, at such times, rigorously forbidden to every one; alone, and in the moments of necessary aberration, in the midst of long continued labour, he saw round him nothing but nature, whose sight refreshed his sensations, and gently recalled him to those ideas which fatigue had interrupted. These long residences at Montbard were but little compatible with his functions of treasurer of the academy: but he was chosen as an adjunct to M. Tillet, whose active and wise zeal, and whose scrupulous attachment to all his duties he knew too well to fear that his brother academicians would have to complain of an absence so usefully employed.

Botany was that part of Natural History with which he was the least occupied; but his individual taste had no influence upon his functions, as the *intendant* of the garden of the king. Enlarged by his cares, distributed in the most advantageous manner, both for teaching and cultivation; this garden has become an establishment worthy of a powerful and enlightened nation. Arrived to this degree of splendour, the garden of the king will doubtless have no more to fear from those vicissitudes of decline and renovation, of which our history has transmitted the memory; and the enlightened zeal of the successor of Buffon is alone a sufficient pledge to the academy and to the sciences.

Placed in an age in which the human mind, unquiet in its chains, unixed all of them, and broke some, in which all opinions have been examined, all errors combated, all ancient usages submitted to discussion, in which every mind sprung towards liberty with unexpected vigour; Buffon appeared to take no part in the general motion.

This