

manner. It was nearly impossible that the desire of studying the generality of these phenomena should not arise, at least, in a limited space around us. My excellent friend, M. Brongniart, in whom other studies had excited similar desires, desired me to associate with him, and thus we have laid the first foundations of our researches in the vicinity of Paris; but this work, although it bears my name, is nearly all that of my friend, from the infinite pains he has bestowed from the commencement of our plan, and, since our journeys, on the profound investigation of the objects, and in classifying the whole. I have, by consent of M. Brongniart, placed it in the second part of my Researches, in that in which I have treated of the fossil remains of our neighbourhood. Although relating, apparently, to a limited country, it affords numerous results applicable to geology generally, and in this light may be considered as an integral part of the present Discourse, at the same time that it is most assuredly one of the finest ornaments of my work. (1)

We have there the history of the most recent changes that have taken place in a particular basin, and it leads us to the chalk formation, whose extent over the globe is infinitely greater than that of the materials of the basin of Paris. The chalk, which has been considered as modern, is thus found to have a remote origin in the ages which preceded the last catastrophe. It forms a kind of boundary between the most recent formations, those to which the name of *Tertiary* may be applied; and the formations which are called *Secondary*, those which were de-

(1) Separate copies have been printed, entitled, "Description Geologique des Environs de Paris," par MM. G. Cuvier and Al. Brongniart, second edition, Paris, 1822, in 4to.