

during every moment of his life, had it been prolonged to this hour : yet he devoted himself to the efficient performance of many other and those most arduous duties, as a philosopher, an academician, a politician and statesman, and a most active labourer in the walks of beneficence. The number and greatness and comprehension of his exertions were such as to fill us with even astonishment. It can excite no surprise, therefore, that he did not carry his researches farther into general Geology ; that in this respect he was behind many of his inferiors ; and that he appears not to have had the least idea that many of the points upon which, in this very work, he had put sagacious queries and had suggested decisive methods of research, were at the very time under successful examination in our country, by Dr. William Smith. That indefatigable explorer, the *father of English Geology*, at the time when Cuvier was employed in his own department and was conferring the richest benefits upon natural history, was completing his patient labours of thirty years ; the result of which was to fix, upon a firm basis, the study of the Secondary rocks, by demonstrating the sure characterism of their imbedded fossils.

The design of these observations is to intimate that the Baron's general conclusion, relative to that which he justly calls the last great and sudden revolution affecting the earth's surface, must not be taken without modification. To this the strict evidence of the case compels us. Though, with his dignified caution and moderation, he speaks of only two or three alternations of land and sea prior to the great deluge ; yet the tenor of his work, where he draws rapid sketches of what to him appeared probable theory, with respect to the earlier strata and the underlying crystalline rocks, and some particular expressions which he uses, afford no slight grounds of belief that, had his investigations been continued over the field