

man of emancipating himself from mere details, and of ascending to lofty generalizations, which were ever recommended by him with all the charms of eloquence ; so that, in his hands, Natural History became adorned, for the first time, with the highest attributes of pure philosophy. To him we owe the most important of the laws which have regulated the distribution of the animal kingdom, and by the application of which we have been made to comprehend many of the mutations of the surface of our planet. He it was, who, removing from GEOLOGY the incumbrance of errors and conceits heaped on it by Cosmogonists, contributed more than any individual of this century, to raise it to the place which it is assuming amongst the exacter sciences. Unlike our precursors, we no longer have to wade through the doubts and perplexities which retarded their acquaintance with the lost types of creation : to his skill we are indebted for a knowledge of their analogies with existing races : and he it was who, from their scattered bones, remodelled the skeletons of those wondrous originals which have successively passed away from the surface of our planet."

Another beautiful and instructive passage of Baron Cuvier's work, more than justifies this supposition.

" If, in studying the infancy of our species, we take an interest in following the almost obliterated traces of numerous nations which have gone out of existence, can we fail to feel an equal interest in piercing the darkness of the earth's infancy, and finding there the marks of *revolutions prior* to the existence of all nations? We admire the powers by which the mind of man has measured the motions of worlds which nature seemed to have placed for ever out of our view: but genius and science have burst the limits of space; and a small number of observations, unfolded by reasoning, have disclosed the mechanism of the world. Would it not be also a glorious object for man, to learn how he may clear the boundaries of time; and, by means of [well directed] observations, recover the history of our globe, and display the succession of events which preceded the birth of human kind? The astronomers have indeed advanced faster than the students of nature upon earth; and, at the present moment, the theory of the earth somewhat resembles that of some philosophers [of old,] who thought the sky to be built of hewn stones, and the moon to be even as big as the Peloponnesus. But Anaxagoras began: Co-