

form; which in reference to the bone so called, is rather its exceptional than normal figure in the vertebrate series."

The principles which Mr. Owen here adopts in the selection of names for the parts of the skeleton are wise and temperate. They agree with the aphorisms concerning the language of science which I published in the *Philosophy of the Inductive Sciences*; and Mr. Owen does me the great honor of quoting with approval some of those Aphorisms. I may perhaps take the liberty of remarking that the system of terms which he has constructed, may, according to our principles, be called rather a *Terminology* than a *Nomenclature*: that is, they are analogous more nearly to the *terms* by which botanists describe the parts and organs of plants, than to the *names* by which they denote genera and species. As we have seen in the History, plants as well as animals are subject to morphological laws; and the names which are given to organs in consequence of those laws are a part of the Terminology of the science. Nor is this distinction between Terminology and Nomenclature without its use; for the rules of prudence and propriety in the selection of words in the two cases are different. The Nomenclature of genera and species may be arbitrary and casual, as is the case to a great extent in Botany and in Zoology, especially of fossil remains; names being given, for instance, simply as marks of honor to individuals. But in a Terminology, such a mode of derivation is not admissible: some significant analogy or idea must be adopted, at least as the origin of the name, though not necessarily true in all its applications, as we have seen in the case of the "squamosal" just quoted. This difference in the rules respecting two classes of scientific words is stated in the *Aphorisms* xiii. and xiv. *concerning the Language of Science*.

Such a Terminology of the bones of the skeletons of all vertebrates as Mr. Owen has thus propounded, cannot be otherwise than an immense acquisition to science, and a means of ascending from what we know already to wider truths and new morphological doctrines.

With regard to one of these doctrines, the resolution of the human head into vertebræ, Mr. Owen now regards it as a great truth, and replies to the objections of Cuvier and M. Agassiz, in detail.<sup>2</sup> He gives a Table in which the Bones of the Head are resolved into four vertebræ, which he terms the Occipital, Parietal, Frontal, and Nasal Vertebra, respectively. These four vertebræ agree in general with what Oken called the Ear-vertebra, the Jaw-vertebra, the Eye-vertebra, and

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<sup>2</sup> *Archetype and Homologies of the Vertebrate Skeleton*. 1848, p. 141.