

continue to be, that we are told how, though the *Époques* was a work on the preparation of which he had spent much time and thought and which he longed to publish, he had cautiously to feel his way and pay court to some of the doctors of the Sorbonne, and how it was only after having secured, if not the votes, at least the silence of the majority of a corporation which tyrannised over thought, that he ventured to send his treatise to the printer. His friends, however, remained anxious on his account, until whether because religious intolerance was growing less with the advance of science, or because the clerical powers were satisfied with professions of faith and protestations of belief on the part of the author, the work was allowed to pass peaceably on its way to popularity. Although this treatise shows that the long interval of thirty years after the appearance of the *Théorie* had given greater freedom and had still further enlarged his views of nature, he was evidently unaware of much that had been observed and described during that interval by his own countrymen and in other parts of Europe. In particular he does not seem to have been acquainted with the progress that had been made in evolving a stratigraphical succession among the fossiliferous formations in Germany, Italy, and England. One would hardly suppose from his chapters that so much information had now been amassed regarding fossil organic remains.

The prolonged controversy over the nature and origin of the "figured stones" had this good result that it not only drew general attention to these objects, but developed a passion for collecting them, and thus