

the details of fossil sponges and corals. At another, he is busy with the mollusca of the Secondary and Tertiary rocks. Fossil fishes, carnivora, pachyderms, cetacea—all interest him, and find in him an enthusiastic and faithful chronicler. His descriptions are not of the minutely systematic and technical order which has prevailed since the time of Linnæus. Yet some of his generic names have passed into the language of modern palæontology, and one of the genera of Chalk sponges which he described has been named after him, *Guettardia*. He had within him the spirit of the true naturalist, more intent on understanding the nature and affinities of organic forms than on adding new names to the scientific vocabulary. His descriptions and excellent drawings entitle him to rank as the first great leader of the palæontological school of France.

As far back as the year 1751, when he was thirty-six years old, he presented to the Academy a memoir on certain little-known fossil bodies, in which he struck, as it were, the keynote of his future life in regard to the organic remains enclosed within the stony records of former ages. Like a man entering a vast charnel-house, he sees on every side proofs of dead organisms. Others had observed these proofs before him, and had recognized their meaning, and he alludes to the labours of his predecessors. He especially singles out Palissy, who, as already remarked, was the first in France, some two hundred years before, to embrace fossil shells in his view of Nature, to maintain that they are the productions of the sea, not of the earth, as had been supposed, and to demon-