

ship of several of them, and had never diminished in any one of them the esteem which it was impossible to refuse to his character and his virtues.”<sup>1</sup>

Guettard's position in the history of science is that of an indefatigable and accurate observer who, gifted with a keen eye, well-trained powers of investigation, and much originality of mind, opened up new paths in a number of fields which have since been fruitfully cultivated, but who rigidly abstained from theory or speculation. In geology, he deserves to be specially remembered as the first to construct, however imperfectly, geological maps, the first to make known the existence of extinct volcanoes in Central France, and one of the first to see the value of organic remains as geological monuments, and to prepare detailed descriptions and figures of them. To him also are due some of the earliest luminous suggestions on the denudation of the land by the atmospheric and marine agents. “By his minute and laborious researches he did more to advance the true theory of the earth (on which, however, he never allowed himself to hazard a single conjecture) than the philosophers who have racked their brains to devise those brilliant hypotheses, the phantoms of a moment, which the light of truth soon remands into eternal oblivion.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Condorcet's *Éloge*, pp. 238, 240.

<sup>2</sup> Condorcet, *op. cit.*