

thereby gain much. The development of life, the succession of its forms, the precise determination of those organic types that first appeared, the simultaneous birth of certain species and their gradual extinction—the solution of these questions would perhaps enlighten us regarding the essence of the organism as much as all the experiments that we can try with living species. And man, to whom has been granted but a moment's sojourn on the earth, would gain the glory of tracing the history of the thousands of ages which preceded his existence and of the thousands of beings that have never been his contemporaries.”¹

Cuvier's brilliant career is well known, but I am only concerned at present with those parts of it which touch on geological progress. In 1802, the year in which Lamarck's *Hydrogéologie* appeared, he became perpetual Secretary of the Institute of France, and it was in this capacity that he composed that remarkable series of *Éloges* in which so much of the personal history of the more distinguished men of science of his time is enshrined. Eloquent and picturesque, full of knowledge and sympathy, these biographical notices form a series of the most instructive and delightful essays in the whole range of scientific literature. They include sketches of the life and work of De Saussure, Pallas, Werner, Desmarest, Sir Joseph Banks, Haüy, and Lamarck.

Five years after the appearance of the earliest conjoint memoir by Cuvier and Brongniart, the structure of the country which they described was still further explored and elucidated by a man who afterwards

¹ From the first edition of the *Discours Préliminaire*, 1821.