

nal events, the exigencies of war and the defence of the country gain the upper hand, and a central establishment is founded to cultivate and teach the sciences and arts, "upon which depend the defence of the Republic by land and sea."¹ Few of the higher and philanthropic aims of the great educational leaders of the early years of the Revolution—of Mirabeau, of Talleyrand, of Condorcet—were realised; little was done for primary education; but science can boast of having been worthily represented and supported in the two great schools which still bear their original designation, and which can show a record of celebrated names and magnificent work superior probably to that of any other similar institution in Europe. They are the "École normale supérieure" and the "École centrale des Travaux publics," better known by the title "École polytechnique."² The founders of this

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philanthropic, the Encyclopædists and Condorcet the educational; the events of the Revolution and the discussions in the Assemblies bring out more and more the instructive, the utilitarian, and the economical aspects. The only creations which resulted were those in which the latter aims were predominant.

¹ Lakanal, see Hippeau, vol. i. p. 447.

² To these two great schools must be added as a third the "Muséum d'Histoire naturelle," "le plus magnifique établissement que les sciences aient possédé" (Cuvier, "Éloge de Fourcroy," part ii. of the 'Éloges historiques,' p. 44, Strasbourg, 1819). The foundation of the "École centrale des Travaux publics" was proposed by Barère on the 11th March 1794, and definitely organised on the report of Fourcroy (Hippeau, vol. i. p. 446) by a decree of 7th vendémiaire, an iv. (name changed to

École polytechnique, 15th fructidor). The opening of the courses was announced for the 10th frimaire following (Hippeau, vol. ii. pp. 139, 174, 175). The foundation of the "Écoles normales" was proposed by Barère (13th prairial, an ii.), and decreed on a report of Lakanal (Hippeau, vol. i. p. 423) on the 9th brumaire, an iii. (30th October 1794) (ibid., vol. ii. p. 179). The courses opened on the 1st pluviôse. The work of the school was distributed as follows: Mathematics, Lagrange and Laplace; physics, Haüy; descriptive geometry, Monge; natural history, Daubenton; chemistry, Berthollet; agriculture, Thouin; geography, Buache and Mentelle; history, Volney; morals, Bernardin de St Pierre. (Hippeau, vol. ii. p. 180, where also will be found extracts from the 'Moniteur' of the 9th pluviôse on the opening addresses.) The oldest pupil was Bougainville, the great