

beings and their parts which are to be known are to be counted by the million; it is not enough to know them singly, for they are submitted to an order, to mutual relations, which must likewise be appreciated, for it is according to this order that each has its part to play, that each disappears at its time, that they reappear similarly made, always in the same proportions, and armed with the necessary forces and faculties for the maintenance of these proportions, and of the whole of this perpetual vortex. Not only is each being an organism, the whole universe is one, but many million times more complicated; and that which the anatomist does for a single animal—for the microcosm—the naturalist is to do for the macrocosm, for the universal animal, for the play of this alarming aggregation of partial organisms.”¹

It was this sustained regard for the value of detailed research and minute observation, coupled with an equal appreciation of the unity of all regions of existence, and all branches of learning, that elevated Cuvier to the height of the science of his age and his country, and made him a true exponent of the modern scientific spirit. The works of Newton and Laplace may contain more formulæ of lasting value, more instruments of permanent scientific use—they may, for all time, have traced a few lines of the enwoven cipher of the all-pervading mechanism of nature; it is, however, well to note that he only who keeps in steadfast view the life rather than the mechanism of existence, approaches the great secret of nature, and gauges rightly the value of each component

¹ Cuvier, 'Éloges historiques,' vol. iii. p. 453.