

part, or the worth of each human effort.<sup>1</sup> In this respect the nineteenth century knows no greater figure than Cuvier; not even Humboldt, great and comprehensive as was his scientific view. The advantages also of Cuvier's position as permanent Secretary of the French Academy of Sciences were exceptional, and well fitted to bring out his extraordinary talents. We can say that in him science has become fully conscious of its true methods, its usefulness, its most becoming style, its inherent dignity, its past errors, its present triumphs, the endless career which lies before it, and the limits which it cannot transgress.

Educated in Germany, at the same school as Schiller and Dannecker,<sup>2</sup> imbued by early experience and by

29.  
Cuvier's  
training.

<sup>1</sup> "C'est la continuation de ce commandement de voir et de nommer, par où s'ouvre la vie de notre espèce, c'est la voie qui devait nous conduire soit à des contemplations plus hautes, soit seulement à des inventions utiles. En effet l'histoire naturelle ne fait aucun pas sans que la physiologie et la philosophie générale marchent d'un pas égal, et sans que la société reçoive leur tribut commun" ('Éloges,' vol. iii. p. 474).

<sup>2</sup> Cuvier has himself written an account of his early life and studies. It is given by Flourens, 'Éloges,' vol. i. pp. 167-193. He was born in 1769, of a Protestant stock, at Montbéliard, the capital of a small principality, situated in the Jura, and then belonging to Würtemberg. The autocratic Duke Charles (1737-1793) had founded a military academy in Stuttgart, his capital, where 400 youths were at his expense housed and educated according to a strict rule, but under the guidance of enlightened masters, and in a thoroughly modern spirit. The institution was a kind of oppo-

sition to the Protestant Church rule, which had very early spread a system of popular and compulsory education throughout the country. It is a chapter of history well worth reading. The great problems of popular education as against higher instruction, Protestant discipline in the lower as against military discipline in the higher schools, the democratic as against the aristocratic spirit, the independence as against the State-regulation of University teaching, were fought out by the dukes and the Estates of Würtemberg in a prolonged warfare, a sample of similar movements all over Germany, and well told by Perthes in his 'Politische Zustände und Personen in Deutschland zur Zeit der französischen Herrschaft' (Gotha, 1862, pp. 501-548). Cuvier evidently saw the better side of the system, for he entered after the imperious character of the duke had been subdued by the victorious estates. Forced to change his ways, which he conscientiously did, the duke laid by for his country, as a local historian says, "a fund of in-