

of the end of this century agrees with or differs from that of its beginning. Upholding the Newtonian rather than the Baconian and Leibnizian standard in the mathematical and physical sciences,¹ he has marked that line which our whole century has contributed to trace out more distinctly; whilst, as regards the purely natural sciences, his continued emphasising of the great problem of organisation, and his later controversy with Geoffroy de Saint-Hilaire, mark that point in which this century has most distinctly departed from the prevailing ideas of its early years.² He also recognised earlier than any other mind of similar eminence what our century increasingly realises, how, without a system of condensation, contained in reports, statistics, and figures, aided by classifications and systems, the growing bulk of accumulated knowledge becomes chaotic and unmanageable.³

¹ Cuvier was not brought up in the school of the Encyclopædists, and I cannot find that he attached the great importance to the writings of Bacon which that school commonly did. As to Newton and Leibniz, he contrasts their methods, considering them "comme les chefs et les représentans des deux méthodes opposées qui se sont disputé l'empire de la science" (*Histoire des Sciences naturelles*, publiée par Magdeleine de Saint-Agy, Paris, 1841, vol. iii. p. 19, &c.) See also in his joint Report with Haüy and Lelièvre on the Science of Geology (*Mém. de l'Institut*, 1807, p. 133): "On vit renaître dans cette partie de l'histoire naturelle la méthode systématique de Descartes, que Newton semblait avoir bannie pour jamais de toutes les sciences physiques, . . . et lorsqu'on songe que Leibniz et Buffon sont au nombre

des philosophes dont je parle ici," &c.

² A future chapter will deal specially with this subject. Cuvier, as is well known, maintained the fixity of species, and opposed the theories of St Hilaire and Lamarck, in which a later generation recognises the beginnings of the Darwinian doctrine of the transmutation of species. "On est obligé d'admettre certaines formes, qui se sont perpétuées depuis l'origine des choses, sans excéder ces limites; et tous les êtres appartenans à l'une de ces formes constituent ce que l'on appelle une espèce" (*Règne animal*, vol. i. p. 20).

³ Cuvier was the first great scientific writer who undertook to give a historical survey of the position of the different natural sciences, with a view of ascertaining what had been achieved and what remained to be done. He did what