

The influence of the first Napoleon on science is naturally a matter of as much controversy as his merit in almost every branch of administration. The reports<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> According to a decree of the Government, dated 13th ventôse, an x. (4th March 1802), the Institute, then consisting of three classes—the “Académie des Sciences physiques et mathématiques,” the “Académie des Sciences morales et politiques,” and the “Académie de Littérature et Beaux-arts”—was ordered to furnish “un tableau de l'état et des progrès des sciences, des lettres et des arts, depuis 1789 jusqu'au 1<sup>er</sup> vendémiaire an x.” This “tableau” was to be divided into three parts according to the three classes of the Institute. These Reports were to be repeated every five years. The first (and only) Reports were not presented before February and March 1808. The Republican Government had then been superseded by the Empire, and by a decree of the 3rd pluviôse, an xi. (23rd January 1803), the Institute had been reorganised. There were now four classes: 1. Des Sciences physiques et mathématiques (corresponding to the old Académie des Sciences). 2. De la langue et de la littérature françaises (corresponding to the old Académie française). 3. D'histoire et de littérature ancienne (corresponding to the “Académie d'Inscriptions et de Belles-lettres”). 4. Des beaux-arts. “On supprima la classe des sciences morales et politiques qui existait dans l'organisation du 3 brumaire, an iv. Ce fut un trait caractéristique de la répugnance du premier Consul pour la discussion des matières politiques et leur enseignement” (Thibaudeau, ‘Le Consulat et l'Empire,’ Paris, 1835-37, vol. iii. p. 396). Accordingly there were prepared four, or rather five, Reports, the first in two parts by Delambre

and Cuvier on the progress of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences; the second by Marie-Joseph Chénier on the progress of Literature; the third by Dacier on the progress of History and Classical Literature; the fourth by Le Breton on Fine Arts. Of these the two Reports of Delambre and Cuvier gave great satisfaction, that of Dacier gave less satisfaction; Chénier, who himself admired the eighteenth-century philosophy, had an embarrassing task to perform, of which, however, he acquitted himself worthily (Thibaudeau, *loc. cit.*, vol. vi. p. 557). The Report of Chénier has been several times reprinted. The new science which was founded by Condillac, Turgot, Condorcet, and others, and which aimed at introducing the truly scientific spirit into psychology, psycho-physical researches, and questions of society and legislation, received no recognition, as it had also lost its representation in the suspended “Académie des Sciences morales et politiques.” After the re-establishment of this section of the Institute in 1832, a royal decree of 22nd March 1840 ordered a Report on the progress of the Moral and Political Sciences from 1789 to 1832. The task was so great that it could not be accomplished before the Revolution of 1848, and was therefore abandoned (Aucoc, ‘L'Institut de France,’ pp. 62 note, 300). Some reference to the subject is contained in the introduction to Chénier's Report, and in the last chapter of Dacier's, which was written by De Gérando. The true history of the new science has been recently written by F. Picavet, ‘Les Idéologues,’ Paris, 1891.