

Buckland, Conybeare, and Mantell, are especially distinguished for the discovery of these large Saurian reptiles; whilst other geologists have exerted their genius and industry with equal effect in different departments. But it is in contemplating the labours of Cuvier, that we have the earliest and the best proofs of the importance of comparative anatomy, in giving extraordinary interest to this science. In him there was combined an attention to minute things and a power of generalizing, highly characteristic of genius. Years had been passed in accumulating the animal remains from the quarries round Paris; and out of this heap, which lay as confused as if the bones had been washed to his feet by a torrent, he was enabled, by following the principle which the early part of this chapter has shown to prevail—the co-existence of the parts of the skeleton—to put together the separate members, to build up the skeletons of extinct animals anew, and to present them to us with a precision which we could only have expected from the dissection of the recent animals.