

abroad by the conquests of Alexander, scientific observation and the systematic arrangement of the knowledge already acquired were elucidated by the doctrines and expositions of Aristotle.* We here indicate a happy coincidence of favoring relations, for, at the very period when a vast amount of new materials was revealed to the human mind, their intellectual conception was at once facilitated and multiplied through the direction given by the Stagirite to the empirical investigation of facts in the domain of nature, to the profound consideration of speculative hypothesis, and to the development of a language of science based on strict definition. Thus Aristotle must still remain, for thousands of years to come, as Dante has gracefully termed him,

“ *Il maestro di color che sanno.*”†

The belief in the direct enrichment of Aristotle's zoological knowledge by means of the Macedonian campaigns has, however, either wholly disappeared, or, at any rate, been rendered extremely uncertain by recent and more carefully-conducted researches. The wretched compilation of a life of the Stagirite, which was long ascribed to Ammonius, the son of Hermias, had contributed to the diffusion of many erroneous views, and, among others, to the belief that‡ the philosopher accompanied his pupil as far, at least, as the shores of the Nile.§ The great work on Animals appears to have been written only a short time after the *Meteorologica*, the date of which would seem, from internal evidence,|| to fall in the

* Compare, on this epoch, Wilhelm von Humboldt's work, *Ueber die Kawi-Sprache und die Verschiedenheit des menschlichen Sprachbaues*, bd. i., s. ccl. und ccliv.; Droysen, *Gesch. Alexanders des Gr.*, s. 547; and *Hellenist. Staatensystem*, s. 24. † Dante, *Inf.*, iv., 130.

‡ Compare Cuvier's assertions in the *Biographie Universelle*, t. ii., 1811, p. 458 (and unfortunately again repeated in the edition of 1843, t. ii., p. 219), with Stahr's *Aristotelia*, th. i., s. 15 und 108.

§ Cuvier, when he was engaged on the *Life of Aristotle*, inclined to the belief of the philosopher having accompanied Alexander to Egypt, “whence,” he says, “the Stagirite must have brought back to Athens (Olymp. 112, 2) all the materials for the *Historia Animalium*.” Subsequently (1830) the distinguished French naturalist abandoned this opinion, because, after a more careful examination, he remarked “that the descriptions of Egyptian animals were not sketched from life, but from notices by Herodotus.” (See, also, Cuvier, *Histoire des Sciences Naturelles*, publiée par Magdeleine de Saint Agy, t. i., 1841, p. 136.)

|| To these internal indications belong the statement of the perfect insulation of the Caspian Sea; the notice of the great comet, which appeared under Nicomachus when holding the office of archon, Olymp. 109, 4 (according to Corsini), and which is not to be confounded with that which Von Boguslawski has lately named the comet of Aristotle