

repressive influence exercised by Cuvier's great authority. In no civilized country of Europe has Darwin's doctrine had so little effect and been so little understood as in France. The Academy of Sciences in Paris on several occasions even rejected the proposal to invite Darwin to become a member, before it declared itself worthy of this highest of honours. Among the recent French naturalists (*before Darwin*) there are only two distinguished botanists whom we may mention as having ventured to express themselves in favour of the mutability and transformation of species. These two men are Naudin (1852) and Lecoq (1854).

Having discussed the early services of German and French nature-philosophy in establishing the doctrine of descent, we turn to the third great country of Europe, to England, which, since the year 1859, has become the chief seat and starting-point for the further working out and definite establishment of the theory of development. Englishmen at the beginning of the century took but little part in the continental nature-philosophy and its most important progress, the Theory of Descent. Almost the only earlier English naturalist whom we have here to mention is Erasmus Darwin, the grandfather of the reformer of the Theory of Descent. In 1794 he published, under the title of "*Zoonomia*," a scientific work in which he expresses views very similar to those of Goethe and Lamarck, without, however, then knowing anything about these two men. It is evident that the Theory of Descent at that time pervaded the intellectual atmosphere. Erasmus Darwin lays great stress upon the transformation of animal and vegetable species by their own vital