

work on the subject and to found the science of palæontology. His researches in this subject were based upon the collection of fossil remains which had been begun by Daubenton for the natural history of Buffon, and which he arranged and largely increased; on the collection which Camper had made at Amsterdam; on descriptions which he procured from all the collectors of Europe; notably from Blumenbach; on his excavations together with Brogniart in the environs of Paris. As early as 1798 he announced his intention of collecting everything that was known on fossil remains in a great tableau—a plan which was not realised till 1812, when his many separate publications were united in the great work on the “Ossements fossiles,” and was only completed by the greatly revised and augmented edition of 1821. This work is important in morphological science, not only because it contains many accurate and still highly valued descriptions of “extinct species,” but also because, in its celebrated introduction¹ on the revolutions on the surface of our globe, it takes a comprehensive view of the changing aspects which succeeding ages, divided by great catastrophes characterised by distinct geological formations

¹ In this introduction (p. 52 of vol. i.) there is also to be found the celebrated passage in which Cuvier says that by the application of his principle of the “correlation of parts” he could, if he only possessed one well-preserved fragment of a bone, determine everything as certainly as if he possessed the whole animal—a statement on which De Blainville (*loc. cit.*, p. 417) has some very pertinent remarks: “Ce ne sont pas des anatomistes véritables comme l'étaient Hunter, Camper,

Pallas, Vicq-d'Azyr, Blumenbach, Soemmering et Meckel qui se seraient ainsi avancés, et M. G. Cuvier aurait été bien embarrassé lui-même, si on l'avait pris au mot, et cependant c'est cette assertion qui restera formulée dans la bouche des ignorants,” &c. Cuvier by this method determined and classed more than 150 mammals (*loc. cit.*, p. 53). A more favourable view of Cuvier's work on fossil remains is taken by Huxley, ‘Life of Owen,’ vol. ii. p. 297.