and by the fossil remains of extinct organic creations, presented on the surface of our earth. "What is certain," says Cuvier at the close [1] of this celebrated discourse, "is that we are now at least in the middle of a fourth succession of terrestrial animals, and that after the age of reptiles, after that of the palæotheria, after that of the mastodons, the megatheria, there has come the age when the human race, supported by some domestic animals, peaceably rules and cultivates the earth, and that it is only in the countries formed since this epoch in the recent alluvial deposits, peat-bogs, and concretions, that we find in a fossil condition those bones which belong to animals known and now living." Such is the *résumé* of the ideas which had followed — nay, even tormented [2] — Cuvier during his researches into fossil remains, and which led him to the conclusion [3] "that it required great events to bring about the important differences which he recognised "—differences which the slow "influence of weather, or of climate, or of domestication," could not explain, but which required the violent action of sudden " catastrophes," [4] which frequently " disturbed the life on this planet by frightful events," [5] " broke off the thread of operations," [6] " none of the present agencies of nature sufficing to produce her bygone works." [7]

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[1] "Discours sur les révolutions de la surface du globe et sur les changemens qu'elles ont produits dans le règne animal," reprinted in the 3rd ed. of the 'Recherches sur les ossemens fossiles,' 1825, vol. i. p. 172.

[2] "Ces idées m'ont poursuivi, je dirai presque tourmenté, pendant que j'ai fait les recherches sur les os fossiles, dont j'ai donné depuis peu au public la collection, recherches qui n'embrassent qu'une si petite partie de ces phénomènes de l'avant-dernier âge de la terre, et qui cependant se lient à tous les autres d'une manière intime" ('Discours,' &c., p. 140).

[3] Ibid., p. 3.   [4] Ibid., p. 8.
[5] Ibid., p. 9.   [6] Ibid., p. 14.
[7] "Ainsi, nous le répétons, c'est en vain que l'on cherche, dans les