

89.
Cuvier's
catastro-
phism.

These words, which embody a conception since appropriately termed "catastrophism," and which picture to the mind's eye a succession of morphological changes of the entire aspect of our globe, were written at a time when, in this country especially, through the labours of Hutton, an entirely opposite view was gradually preparing. With this we shall deal in another chapter. The Cuvierian conception of epochs in geology harmonised with that of distinct types of organic creation. These exhibit in space, as those do in time, certain definite and distinct morphological characters—*i.e.*, certain typical forms and structures on a vast or a small scale, around which the features of events and individuals seem to oscillate, and which permit us scientifically to classify, describe, and comprehend them. This conception gave the tone to a long line of researches on the Continent and in this country in geology as well as in natural history.

40.
Study of
analogies.

In the study of these typical forms and structures in which nature repeats herself, reverting again and again to them, but in every single case departing more or less from them; in the study of this order without monotony, this change without confusion, this variety of forms in which leading features are always recognisable,—the discovery of analogies played a very prominent part. Goethe's metamorphosis of plants is based upon the analogy of their different organs: before he published

forces qui agissent maintenant à la surface de la terre, des causes suffisantes pour produire les révolutions et les catastrophes dont son enveloppe nous montre les traces ;

et si l'on veut recourir aux forces extérieures constantes connues jusqu'à présent, l'on n'y trouve pas plus de ressources" (ibid., p. 20).