

to the poetical mind of Goethe, and all other artists, than the separations and classifications of the men of science. "It is one of Humboldt's uncontested merits that he, in order to prove the unity which rules in the formation of the earth, searched for analogies in the geological constitution of distant countries. As we see him pointing out numerous novel coincidences between the formations of Mexico and Hungary, so likewise we owe to him suggestive hints for other similar comparisons."<sup>1</sup> But the man in whose labours the tendency of thought which was uncritically followed by Goethe, and magnificently represented in Humboldt, found the clearest scientific expression, so far as animated nature is concerned, was Étienne Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire, the friend and colleague and then the great rival of Cuvier.<sup>2</sup> No one recognised more clearly the deeper significance of the great outburst of the two conflicting ways of viewing nature in the Paris Academy of Sciences in 1830 than Goethe himself, who in the eighty-first year of his life was deeply stirred by seeing his favourite ideas espoused by a scientific authority of the first order.<sup>3</sup>

41.  
Geoffroy  
Saint-  
Hilaire.

<sup>1</sup> See Julius Ewald in the third volume of the 'Leben Humboldt's' by Bruhns (German edition), p. 184.

<sup>2</sup> See Huxley in 'Life of Owen,' vol. ii. p. 293.

<sup>3</sup> Eckermann in the 'Conversations with Goethe' gives the following remarkable account, under date 2nd August 1830: "The news of the outbreak of the French Revolution arrived to-day, and created excitement everywhere. In the course of the afternoon I went to Goethe. 'Well,' he called out to me, 'what do you think of this

great event? The volcano has come to an eruption, everything is in flames, and it is no longer a discussion with closed doors.' 'A dreadful affair,' I replied. 'But what else could one expect under the well-known circumstances and with such a ministry, but that it would end with the expulsion of the Royal Family?' 'We do not seem to understand each other, my friend,' retorted Goethe. 'I am in nowise speaking of those people; I am concerned with quite different things. I speak of that most important conflict which has come