

animals are described in the two first volumes of his work. And he particularly expresses his obligations to Latreille, who furnished him with the entire third volume of the “ Règne Animal,” containing the arrangement of crustaceous animals (*lobsters, &c*); the arachnida (*spiders, &c.*) and insects^s. Of his fourth and last volume he speaks in such brief terms as the nature of its contents requires: for, inasmuch as it only contains a compressed account of those animals whose history is very obscure, either from the minuteness of their size, or from our ignorance of their habits and modes of life, it is necessarily very short in itself, and concise in its details^t.

It is clearly immaterial, on the present occasion, whether the work of Aristotle, which we are about to examine, be entirely his own, or only a systematic exposition of the opinions and knowledge of others; for, on either supposition, it is evidently a representation, on the authority of which we may fairly rely, of the general amount of knowledge accessible to the contemporaries of Aristotle, in that department of natural science: and as, with even still greater confidence, we may rely on Cuvier’s work, as a similar representation of the existing state of knowledge in the same department, I may safely refer to it as a standard of comparison with

^s Preface, p. ix, x.

^t Pref. p. xi.