

It appears that the animal kingdom was thus early established, on the same general principles that now prevail; not only did the four present Classes of Vertebrata exist; and among Mammalia, the Orders Pachydermata, Carnivora, Rodentia, and Marsupialia; but many of the genera also, into which living families are distributed, were associated together in the same system of adaptations and relations, which they hold to each other in the actual creation. The Pachydermata and Rodentia were kept in check by the Carnivora—the Gallinaceous birds were controlled by the Accipitres.

“Le Règne Animal, à ces époques reculées, était composé d’après les mêmes lois; il comprenait les mêmes classes, les mêmes familles que de nos jours; et en effet, parmi les divers systèmes sur l’origine des êtres organisés, il n’en est pas de moins vraisemblable que celui qui en fait naître successivement les différens genres par des développemens ou des métamorphoses graduelles.” (Cuvier, *Oss. Foss.* t. 3, p. 297.)

This numerical preponderance of Pachydermata, among the earliest fossil Mammalia, beyond the proportion they bear among existing quadrupeds, is a remarkable fact, much insisted on by Cuvier; because it supplies, from the relics of a former world, many intermediate forms which do not occur in the present distribution of that important Order. As the living genera of Pachydermata are more widely sepa-