

his reader with much astronomical learning, applying it very imperfectly and obscurely, in our opinion to the explanation of certain catastrophes, the formation of the atmosphere, changes of climate, &c. The remainder of the work, will well repay a perusal. The amiable and enthusiastic Faujas St. Fond, wrote his elements of geology by command of the Emperor Napoleon, greatly against his inclination.—He was, in consequence, dissatisfied with his performance, and only struck off fifty copies. Much of it is slovenly and crude, but his disquisitions on the animal remains found in the younger series of rocks, (Mæstricht, Paris, &c.) and in clay and gravel are very valuable. The chapters on granite and volcanic productions are written with considerable care. The Roman or Neapolitan Abbe Breislac has produced a work of sterling merit, translated into French, and comprised in three volumes. As might have been expected from an Italian, he has devoted a great part of his attention to the examination of volcanoes, their minerals, and their connexion with basaltic and trachitic rocks. His plates are excellent.

These are the principal “systems” to be studied. The essays in particular departments, as conglomerates, coal formation, basalt, alluvia, &c. of Kidd, Kirwan and Greenough may be consulted with great advantage, in addition to the works named in a previous page. The transactions of the *Ecole des Mines*, and the *Annales des Musées* of Paris, of the Geological Society of London, Wernerian Society of Edinburgh, are to be frequently examined, together with scientific Journals of Silliman, Brewster and Jamieson. They are treasures of geological knowledge. The travels of Saussure (Alps,) Spallanzani (Sicily and Lipari,) Von Buch (Norway and Teneriffe,) Ramond and Charpentier, (Pyrenees,) Beudant, (Hungary,) De Luc, (England, &c.) Macculloch and Faujas St. Fond, (Scotland,) are models of description and reasoning. The work entitled “Geological outlines of England,” lately published by Coneybeare and Phillips, is conspicuous for its clear, though minute, details, and its enlightened views. The labors of Humboldt have been concentrated in his recent digest of universal geology—a performance full of original matter, and acute observations which ought to be in the hands of every student. Brongniart a Parisian Professor, puts forth every few months very valuable, and sometimes voluminous, tracts on various classes of rocks, as ophiolites, on the trachitic rocks, nearly allied to the productions of volcanoes—on salt and fresh water formations describing at the same time their numerous organic contents.

For an intimate acquaintance with organic remains reading is less required than a personal familiarity with the things themselves, but it presupposes a knowledge of conchology, and botany.—The three most necessary books are Parkinson’s “Treatise on organic remains” in three quarto volumes, and amply illustrated by engravings. (It is in the Montreal Library) Sowerby’s Mineral Concho-