

THE
MONTREAL MUSEUM.

No 12.

NOVEMBER, 1833.

Vol. 1.

MEMOIRS OF BARON CUVIER.

BY MRS. LEE, (FORMERLY MRS. ED BOWDICH.)

From the London Athenæum.

HAVING in our last number touched on the leading incidents of Cuvier's private life, and mentioned some traits illustrative of his character, it now remains that we should turn our attention to his public career, and consider the influence he has had on science, and the part he played as a legislator and a politician. His earliest acquaintance with the Animal Kingdom seems to have been made through its tiniest inhabitants—the insect tribes; and so great was his admiration of the wonders displayed in their organization, that in after life he has been heard to say, "If I had not studied insects from choice when I was at college, I should have done so later, from a conviction of its necessity."

"An anecdote is related of him by M. Audouin, in his Discourse, read at the Entomological Society of Paris, which proves still further the value he set upon such pursuits. A young student of medicine came to him one day, and ventured to tell him, that he had discovered something new and remarkable in dissecting a human subject. 'Are you an Entomologist?' asked M. Cuvier.—'No,' replied the student.—'Well, then,' returned M. Cuvier, 'go and anatomise an insect, I care not which, the largest you can find, then re-consider your observation, and if it appear to be correct, I will believe you on your word.' The young man submitted cheerfully to the proof; and soon after, having acquired more skill and more judgment, went