

their enjoyment. Then all ameliorations will be made without causing a shock ; then each new idea, thrown upon *good ground*, will have time to germinate, to grow, and to ripen, without convulsing the social body. Imitate nature, who, in the development of beings, acts by *gradation*, and gives time to every member of her most powerful elements. The infant remains nine months in the body of its mother ; man's physical perfection only takes place at twenty or thirty, and his moral completion from thirty to forty. Institutions must have ages to produce all their fruits ; witness *Christiamty*, the effects of which are not yet accomplished, notwithstanding a thousand years of existence.

In issuing an ordonnance, he generally accompanied it by a memoir declaratory of its motives, and explanatory of each of its articles. "He thought it as useful to spread every where the reason of the laws as to disseminate the laws themselves ; thinking that the latter are often attacked and mistaken by the publication for want of a proper comprehension of the motives which caused them to be framed."

The decided manner, in which he refused the censorship of the press, when urged on him by Charles X., is well known. It was on this occasion that Madame de T———made her celebrated remark, "What impertinence ! Was not Cato censor of the Romans ? and is Cuvier a greater man than Cato ?"

We have nearly exhausted our space, but our subject is almost inexhaustible. Let us only exhibit Cuvier in one more character—the recorder of private worth and simple unobtrusive virtue. Every one has heard of John Frederick Oberlin,—his fervent piety, his practical religion, his zeal, his unfeigned devotion to the service of his Maker,—his unceasing, and finally successful, exertions in harmonizing and civilizing his rude and discordant flock. But few have heard of his faithful fellow worker, the noble, the virtuous Louise Scheppler. In 1829, the head prize for virtue, endowed by M. de Monthyon, and annually adjudged by the Académie Française, was conferred on her. Cuvier was appointed to explain publicly the distribu-