

tures," says M. Laurillard, "was, that society having been developed by the discovery of the natural properties of bodies, each of these discoveries has a corresponding degree of civilization; and therefore, the history of this civilization, and consequently of all humanity, is intimately connected with the history of natural sciences." This magnificent idea, of embracing all history, all philosophy, and all science, at a glance, could only have originated in a mind of surpassing power, and filled with stores of richest erudition. The enthusiasm with which the course was received was unbounded: "in the coldest weather the audience assembled an hour before the time, and some were contented to remain on the staircase, provided they could catch some of his melodious words." It is ever to be regretted that of these lectures no trace now remains, save in the recollection of the hearers, and in the imperfect notices inserted in the *feuilletons* of the *Temps* and other contemporary journals.

Of Cuvier's work on fishes, which he was carrying on conjointly with M. Valenciennes, eight volumes appeared before his death, and one since. If completed as begun, it will be all but perfect. To the latest hour of his life he was employed in preparing for what he always looked to as his crowning labour, a grand work on Comparative Anatomy. The five volumes of his lectures, published 1800 and 1805, by the cares of MM. Duvernoy and Dumeril, he looked on only as a sketch or outline of the science: the materials he had prepared for enlarging and filling in were immense.

In his legislative character, as Councillor of State and President of the Comité de l'Intérieur, his chief efforts were directed towards founding and extending a sound system of national education, with a view to fit the people gradually for the full enjoyment of political privileges. His sentiments on this subject are worthy of his general character:—

"Give schools before political rights; make citizens comprehend the duties that the state of society imposes upon them; teach them what are political rights before you offer them for