

try ; those who afterwards see them in New-Holland, their second country, will be as embarrassed to know whence they came, as we can be now to find the origin of our own."

As connected with his geological investigations, we must notice the commencement of his acquaintance with M. Laurillard, who afterwards became his secretary, and afforded such able assistance, more particularly in the drawings and plans necessary to illustrate his works. M. Laurillard was, by profession, an artist. He had come from Montbéliard, his as well as Cuvier's native place, to Paris, and had been engaged there to make a few sketches for Cuvier, and also for his brother, M. Frederic Cuvier, which he executed well, but without attracting any particular attention.

"One day, however, M. Cuvier came to his brother to ask him to disengage a fossil from its surrounding mass, an office he had frequently performed. M. Laurillard was the only person to be found on the spot, and to him M. Cuvier applied in the absence of his brother. Little aware of the value of the specimen confided to his care, he cheerfully set to work, and succeeded in getting the bone entire from its position. M. Cuvier, after a short time, returned for his treasure, and when he saw how perfect it was, his ecstasies became uncontrollable ; he danced, he shook his hands, he uttered expressions of delight, till M. Laurillard, in his ignorance both of the importance of what he had done, and of the ardent character of M. Cuvier, thought he was mad. Taking however his fossil foot in one hand, and dragging M. Laurillard's arm with the other, he led him up stairs to present him to his wife and sister-in-law, saying, 'I have got my foot, and M. Laurillard found it for me.' It seems, that this skilful operation confirmed all M. Cuvier's previous conjectures concerning a foot, the existence and form of which he had already guessed, but for which he had long and vainly sought."

The course of lectures on which he had entered towards the close of his life, was one of the most splendid in conception that can be imagined. "The fundamental principle of these lec-