

such celebrated members as had closed their earthly career. The collection of these Eloges contains as fine specimens as any extant of that species of narrative biography which intersperses characteristic traits with passages of noble sentiment and elevated pathos.

Geology owes too much to Cuvier to permit of its being passed over in a sketch, however brief, of his works. Fossil geology, or the indications derived from the spoils of animals found in different strata, may be almost entirely referred to his researches. It is well known that the bones of animals occur in countries where animals of the same species now no longer exist. One mode of accounting for this fact, given by M. Cuvier, appears so natural that we shall quote his own words :—

“ For example, let us suppose that a great irruption of the sea shall now cover the continent of New Holland with a mass of sand, or other débris ; the bodies of kangaroos, wombats, dasyuri, perameles, flying phalangistæ, echidnæ, and ornithorynchi, will be buried under it, and it will entirely destroy every species of these genera, since none of them now exist in other countries. Let this same revolution dry up the sea which covers the numerous straits between New Holland and the continent of Asia : it will open a way for the elephant, the rhinoceros, the buffalo, the horse, the camel, the tiger, and all other Asiatic quadrupeds, who will people a country where they have been hitherto unknown. A naturalist afterwards living among them, and by chance searching into the depths of the soil on which this new nature lives, will find the remains of beings wholly different. That which New Holland would be in the above case, Europe, Siberia, and a great part of America are now, and, perhaps, when other countries, and New Holland itself shall be examined, we shall find that they have all undergone similar revolutions. I could almost say, a mutual exchange of productions ; for, carrying the supposition still further, after this transportation of Asiatic animals into New Holland, let us imagine a second revolution, which shall destroy Asia, their primitive coun-