

of Werner from Germany. The Huttonians had dealt rather with general principles than with minute details; they were weak in accurate mineralogical knowledge—not that they were ignorant of or in any degree despised such knowledge; but it was not necessary for their object. When, however, the system of Werner came to be taught within these walls by his devoted pupil Jameson, its precision and simplicity, and its supposed capability of ready application in every country, joined to the skill and zeal of its teacher, gave it an impulse which lasted for years. I shall have occasion in a subsequent lecture to speak of this system. It attempted to explain the geological history of the globe from the rocks of a limited district in Saxony. It required mineralogical determination of rocks and pointed out a certain order of succession among them. In so far it did good service, but its theoretical teaching as regards the history of the earth cannot now be regarded without a smile. It maintained that the globe was covered with certain universal formations which had been precipitated successively from solution in a primeval ocean. Of upheaval and subsidence, earthquakes and volcanoes, and all the mechanism of internal heat, it could make nothing, and ignored as much as it dared. Werner, the founder of this system, had the faculty of attaching his students to him, and of infusing into them no small share of his own zeal and faith in his doctrines. His pupil Jameson had a similar aptitude. Skilled in the mineralogy of his time, and full of desire to apply the teachings of Freyberg to the explication of Scottish geology, or geognosy, as the Wernerians preferred to call it, Jameson gathered round him a band of active observers, who gleaned facts from all parts of Scotland, and to whom the first accurate descriptions of the mineralogy of the country are due. It is but