not greatly dissimilar to what it possesses now might have been suggested to these theorists by the occurrence of the abundant remains of animal life in many of the rocks—a fact of which they ultimately became well aware.

A further singular characteristic of the Wernerian school was the position it took up with regard to the evidence for disturbances of the earth's crust, and for the universality and potency of what is now termed igneous action. A hundred years before Werner's time Steno had pointed to the inclined and broken strata of Northern Italy as evidence of dislocation of the crust. The Italian observers, and especially Moro, familiar with the phenomena of earthquakes and volcanoes, had been impressed by the manifest proofs of the potency of the internal energy of the earth upon its outer form. But these early adumbrations of the truth were all brushed aside by the oracle of Freiberg. I have tried to imagine the current of thought by which Werner was led to this crowning absurdity of his system, and I think we may trace it in the history of his relation to the basalt hills of Saxony. The question is of some interest, not only as a curious piece of human psychology, but because it was on this very point of the origin of basalt that the Wernerian ship finally struck and foundered.

The year after his appointment as teacher of mineralogy, Werner visited the famous Stolpen, one of the most picturesque castle-crowned basalt hills of Saxony, to which I have already referred in connection with Agricola's revival of the old word "basalt." He had probably by this time begun to