

it did not secure him undisturbed repose. With all his efforts after the placid life of a philosopher, there was one subject that not unnaturally stirred his wrath—the unwarranted publication, or at least circulation of his lectures and theories. As he did not publish them himself, and as there was a widespread desire to become acquainted with them, manuscript copies of notes of his lectures were widely circulated, as a kind of mercantile speculation. This was bad enough, but he heard of an intention to print and publish them. So he took an opportunity of cautioning the world that, while willing to shut his eyes on the past, he could not tolerate any such conduct in future, that he was himself engaged in revising his works on the several branches of science he professed, and that they would “forthwith appear one after another, enriched by his latest observations and discoveries.”¹ But the revision was never made, and the publications never appeared.

Werner's repugnance to writing in any form increased with his years. By degrees he ceased to write letters, even when the dearest friend begged for a reply, and at last, to save himself from the reproach of this neglect, he allowed the letters which he received to remain unopened. Cuvier tells how once an author, desiring to consult some of the learned men of the day concerning a work which he proposed to publish, circulated his voluminous manuscript among them. The precious parcel disappeared in the circuit. After endless seeking, it was disinterred in Werner's room from underneath some hundreds of others. He never

¹ *New Theory of the Formation of Veins*, 1791, preface.