

answered the Academy of Sciences of Paris when it conferred on him the very high distinction of electing him one of its eight foreign associates, and he might never have heard of the affair had he not come across the mention of it in some almanack. "But," says Cuvier, "we forgave him when we heard that about the same time a messenger sent express by his sister from Dresden had been kept waiting, at the professor's expense, for two months for a mere signature to some pressing family document."

Save for the occasional irritation caused by rumours of the unwarranted reproduction of his lectures, Werner's life appears to have passed quietly in the midst of the work which he loved and the pupils and friends who looked up to him with veneration and affection. His health was never robust, and the effort of lecturing proved sometimes a great strain upon his energy. After a discourse in which he would pour forth his ideas with the full flow of his exuberance, the bodily and mental effort would be so great that he would have to change his clothes even to his inner raiment. He tried to preserve both body and mind in an equable frame. Among his little foibles was the care he took never to expose himself to a draught. He kept himself out of controversy, and eventually refrained even from reading the journals, and from knowing what was said in the outer world about himself and his opinions. In this tranquil life he might perhaps have prolonged his days, had not his feelings been deeply stirred by the misfortunes which, during the Napoleonic wars, had befallen Saxony, his adopted home. He took these trials so much to heart that they led to a series of