

internal complications, from which he died at Dresden, in the arms of his sister, on 30th June 1817, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

Whether the regrets loudly expressed by his contemporaries that Werner published so little were justified, may perhaps be open to doubt. If his fame had to rest on his written works, or even on his teaching as expounded by his pupils, it could never have grown so great, nor, judging from what we know of his views in maturer life, can we suppose that any account of them by himself would really have added to his reputation, or have contributed materially to the advancement of science. It was not his writings, nor even his opinions and theories in themselves, that gave him his unquestioned authority among the geologists of his time. His influence and fame sprang mainly from the personality of the man. His unwearied enthusiasm and eager zeal in the furtherance of his favourite studies, his kindness and helpfulness, his wide range of knowledge, and the vivacity, perspicuity, and eloquence with which he communicated it, his absolute confidence in the solidity of his theoretical doctrines—these were the sources of his power rather than the originality and importance of his own contributions to geology. His followers, indeed, captivated by the precision of his system and its apparent applicability in any and every country, claimed for him the highest place in the ranks of those who had studied the history of the earth. But the exaggeration of their claim was amply shown by the rapidity with which the Wernerian doctrines began to fall into disrepute even before the death of their author.