

from openly rejecting his doctrines, even when they could no longer accept them. His death in 1817 was felt by many of them to bring a relief from the despotism which he had so long exercised.¹ And from that time his system declined in favour even in Germany.

It was one of the most singular episodes in the history of geological science that the first serious check to the triumphal march of Wernerianism through Europe came from two of Werner's most distinguished pupils, D'Aubuisson and Von Buch, and that their first opposition to their master's teaching was inspired by that very volcanic tract in Central France to which Desmarest had so long before appealed in vain. Let us see how, in this instance, the whirligig of time brought in his revenges.

Jean François D'Aubuisson de Voisins (1769-1819) was born in the south of France on 16th April, 1769. After receiving his early education in his own country, he spent some years as a diligent student at the Mining School of Freiberg. For four consecutive years, he tells us, he was in the most favourable circumstances for mastering the Wernerian doctrines, inasmuch as the illustrious teacher honoured him with particular attention, and in the course of many conversations unfolded to him the principles of his science, and traced for him the path that would lead him to the

¹ One of Jameson's ablest pupils, Ami Boué, trained in the Wernerian faith, confessed, but with evident reluctance, and "as a truth which others may be unwilling to make public," that Werner's death had greatly contributed to the progress of geology in Germany.—*Journ. Phys.* xciv. (1822), p. 298.