

most remarkable treatises which up to that time had been devoted to the description of the actual structure and history of the earth. It was in Latin, and, under the title of "A History of the Earth and the Sea, based on a History of the Mountains of Thuringia," appeared in the *Transactions of the Electoral Society of Mayence*, established at Erfurt.¹ It was illustrated with a geological map and sections of the country. Eleven years later he published in German a *Sketch of the most Ancient History of the Earth and Man*, which contained a further development of his geological views.²

These views were founded on the author's own observations in the region where he had been born and passed his life. He recognized as clearly as Lehmann, and with more accuracy of detail, the sequence of stratified rocks resting in gently-inclined strata against the older upturned masses of the mountains. He noted the position of the Coal with its exotic plants, followed by the copper-bearing shales, Zechstein, mottled sandstone, marls, gypsum, and finally the Muschelkalk.

Taking no limited or parochial view of the phenomena that presented themselves before his eyes, he connected the history of his little principality with that of the whole globe. In the order of succession

¹ "Historia terrae et maris, ex historia Thuringiae per montium descriptionem erecta" (*Trans. Elect. Soc. Mayence*, vol. ii. pp. 44-209). The map was the first detailed geognostical and petrographical map of a large district in Germany, and the sections were excellent for their time.

² *Entwurf zu der ältesten Erd- und Menschengeschichte*, 275 pages, 8vo, 1773.