

in a little town, with no disciples to spread his doctrines, so that his very name remained hardly known even in Germany, while other and much inferior writers achieved a wide reputation. His writings seem to have dropped out of sight, until they were unearthed and brought to notice fifty-seven years after his death by Keferstein. The seed sown in Germany by Lehmann and Füchsel was thus long in springing into abundant growth. During the remainder of the century the idea of geological succession was proclaimed, indeed, from the housetops, but it was so mingled with fanciful hypothesis, that its truth and real value were almost lost sight of.

We come now to the time of the advent of a man who bulks far more largely in the history of geology than any of those with whom up to the present we have been concerned—a man who wielded an enormous authority over the mineralogy and geology of his day. Through the loyal devotion of his pupils, he was elevated even in his lifetime into the position of a kind of scientific pope, whose decisions were final on any subject regarding which he chose to pronounce them. During the last quarter of the eighteenth century, by far the most notable figure in the ranks of those who cultivated the study of minerals and rocks was unquestionably Abraham Gottlob Werner (1749-1817).

The vast influence which this man wielded arose mainly from his personal gifts and character, and especially from the overmastering power he had of impressing his opinions upon the convictions of his hearers. It was an influence of a curiously mingled