

anxious to secure his services, had now forgotten his existence. He had heard nothing more of the proposal to engage him, and he began to arrange his plans for the future. But the officials, though slow in their movements, had not lost sight of him. They had made note of his progress at Leipzig, and especially of his admirable little book, and at last in February 1775, to his own astonishment, Werner received a call from them to become Inspector and Teacher of Mining and Mineralogy in the Freiberg Mining Academy at a yearly stipend of 300 thalers. He thus attained before he was twenty-six the position in which he spent the rest of his life and achieved his great fame. For some forty years he continued in the same appointment. By his genius he raised the Mining School from a mere local seminary, founded for the training of a few Saxon miners, to the importance of a great academy or university, to which as in mediaeval times, his renown as a teacher drew pupils from all corners of the civilized world. Men advanced in years, as well as youths, sometimes even men of science already distinguished, betook themselves to the acquisition of German that they might attend the lectures of the great oracle of geology.

The life of such a man, seldom tempted to stir from home, immersed in the daily discharge of the duties of his office, and only varying from year to year the subject of his prelections, offers little incident to the biographer. Moreover, though he precociously began so young as an author, he wrote merely a few short treatises and papers in journals, thus leaving hardly any personal memorial behind him. It is from the writings