

might have been thought remote enough from the dry study of minerals, and by the clear and confident method, playful vivacity and persuasive eloquence with which they were conducted, Werner roused his hearers to a high pitch of enthusiasm. No teacher of geological science either before or since has approached Werner in the extent of his personal influence, or in the breadth of his contemporary fame.

Let us now inquire what were the leading characteristics of his doctrines, and what permanent influence they exerted upon the progress of the science of his time. His brilliance and discursiveness might attract and retain large audiences, but his lectures must have possessed more solid and enduring qualities, which inspired his disciples to devote their lives to the studies into which he introduced them, and filled them with the ardour of devoted proselytes.

The first feature to which we may direct our attention, distinguishable in every part of his life and work, was his overmastering sense of orderliness and method. This habit of mind became in him a true passion. He is said to have bought books, rather to arrange them systematically than to read them. He observed the details of social etiquette as punctiliously as the characters of minerals, but with one remarkable exception, to which I shall afterwards allude; and he would deliberate over the arrangement of a dinner with as much gravity as over that of his library or his cabinet.

We cannot take up any of Werner's writings without at once noting this prominent peculiarity of his mind. Every fact, every proposition is definitely