

that compose it appeared as a thin quarto of only 28 pages, published at Dresden in the year 1787.<sup>1</sup> It was descriptive rather than theoretical, and was marked by all its author's precision and orderliness of statement. It contained the essence of his system in its simplest form. In later years, as we shall see, further experience compelled him to enlarge and modify the system, but without changing the fundamental conceptions on which it was founded. The modifications, however, were not embodied by Werner in any later edition of his work. They were given by him from time to time in his lectures, and gradually became known from the writings of his students. One of the most devoted and distinguished of these followers was Robert Jameson, who afterwards became Professor of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh. He was mainly instrumental in introducing the Wernerian doctrines into Britain, and continued for a number of years to be their most ardent supporter. In many respects the fullest accounts of Werner's views are to be found in the various works of the Edinburgh Professor, and I shall cite some further passages from them in the present chapter.

One of the fundamental postulates of the Wernerian doctrines was the existence of what were termed universal formations. When he elaborated his system, Werner had never been out of Saxony and the immediately adjacent regions. His practical knowledge of the earth was, therefore, confined to what he could

<sup>1</sup> *Kurze Klassifikation und Beschreibung der verschiedenen Gebirgsarten*, von A. G. Werner, Bergakademie Inspector, und Lehrer der Bergbaukunst und Mineralogie zu Freiberg. Dresden, 1787.