

and of his geological acumen. For more than sixty years this distinguished man continued to enrich geological literature with memoirs contributed to scientific societies and journals, and with independent works. His earliest writings stamped him as an observer of great sagacity and independence, and his reputation rose higher every year, until he came to be the acknowledged leader of geological science in Germany. Pressing forward into every department of the science, he illuminated it with the light of his penetrating intellect. From the North Cape to the Canary Islands there was hardly a region that he did not personally explore, and not many that he did not describe. With ceaseless industry and exhaustless versatility, he ranged from the structure of the Alps to that of the Cystideans, from the distribution of volcanoes to that of Ammonites, from the details of minerals and rocks to the deepest problems in the history of the globe.¹

His influence in his time was great. Though he began as a Wernerian, he gradually and almost unconsciously passed into the ranks of the Vulcanists. In no respect did he show his independence and love of truth more than in his long and enthusiastic researches among volcanoes. No vulcanist could have worked out more successfully than he did the structure and history of the Canary Islands.

Among the leaders of geology in the first half of this

¹ Von Buch's collected writings form four large closely-printed octavo volumes. The Royal Society's Catalogue assigns 153 separate papers to him. For a biographical account of Von Buch see the sketch by W. Haidinger in *Jahrb. k. k. geol. Reichsanst.* Band iv. (1853), p. 207, and the notices prefixed to his collected works.