

of the Royal Irish Academy, whose ungenerous attacks stung Hutton into the preparation of his larger treatise. In England and on the Continent another determined opponent was found in the versatile and prolific De Luc. But though these men wielded great influence in their day, their writings have fallen into deserved oblivion. They are never read save by the curious student, who has leisure and inclination to dig among the cemeteries of geological literature.

The gradual progress of the Huttonian school and the concomitant decay of Wernerianism at Edinburgh, are well indicated by the eight volumes of *Memoirs* published by Jameson's Wernerian Society, which ranged from 1811 to 1839, an interval of less than a generation. The early numbers might have emanated from Freiberg itself. Not a sentiment is to be found in them of which Werner himself would not have approved. How heartily, for example, Jameson must have welcomed the concluding sentence of a paper by one of the ablest of his associates when, after a not very complimentary allusion to Hutton's views about central heat, the remark is made—"He who has the boldness to build a theory of the earth without a knowledge of the natural history of rocks, will daily meet with facts to puzzle and mortify him."¹ The fate which this complacent Wernerian here predicted for the followers of Hutton, was now surely and steadily overtaking his own brethren. One by one the faithful began to fail, and, as we have seen, those who had gone out to preach the faith of Freiberg came back

¹The Rev. John Fleming, *Mem. Wer. Soc.* vol. ii. (1813), p. 154.