

CHAPTER II.

THE SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT IN GERMANY.

“No Augustan epoch flowered,
 No Lorenzo favours showered
 Ever German Art upon ;
 She was not by glory nourished
 And her blossom never flourished
 In the rays of Royal sun.”¹

Perhaps with more correctness Schiller might, early in the century, have applied these lines to German science than to German art. If art and poetry were only slightly indebted to princely protection, German science was still less so.² Leibniz's scientific labours languished while he

¹ Schiller, “Die deutsche Muse.”

² Astronomy was the only science that enjoyed some little princely favour. William IV., surnamed “the Wise,” son of Philip the Magnanimous of Hesse and himself Elector, was an astronomer of some note, and stood in intimate relations with Mercator, Tycho, and other astronomers. In 1561 he built himself an observatory at Cassel and appointed Rothmann to be his “Mathematicus.” Frederick II. of Denmark gave Tycho a magnificent observatory, called “Uranienburg,” where he laboured

from 1576 to 1597, but which was subsequently destroyed. Tycho was then employed by the Emperor Rudolf II., and inaugurated the observatory in Prague (1599-1601); he made Kepler his assistant, and enabled the latter by the use of his observations to find and prove his three celebrated laws (“Astronomia nova,” Prague, 1609; “Harmonices mundi,” Linz, 1619; “Tabulæ Rudolphinæ,” 1627). Full details will be found in Rudolf Wolf, ‘Geschichte der Astronomie,’ München, 1877, p. 266, &c.