

fore he left Germany for the extensive travels by which he became celebrated, and through which he founded a new science—the science that deals with the geographical distribution of plant life. Moreover, his absence from his native country fell within that period during which the philosophical school, headed by Schelling and Hegel, attained to its greatest power. He was never drawn into its vortex; on the contrary, he maintained a lifelong protest against the spirit of its doctrine at a time when the circle which surrounded him at Berlin came under its powerful influence.¹ He led a long line of ardent young workers both to the right sources of scientific knowledge and to an ultimate victory over the opposed school of thought. Though not a profound mathematician himself, he appreciated the part which mathematics were destined to play in science. Among other things, he protected and encouraged younger mathematical talents, and tried to draw Gauss from the solitary heights which he inhabited into the midst of the scientific circles of the day.² Then there was the great influence which

¹ Cf. p. 178, note 1. It has latterly become the fashion to say so much against the mistaken methods of the *Naturphilosophie* that it is well to remember how many men of foremost rank in the natural sciences belonged at one time to this school or were influenced by it. Foremost of all stands Oken (1779-1851), the founder of the German Association of Science, and editor of the periodical 'Isis.' Further, the comparative anatomist Carus (1789-1869); Oersted (1777-1851), the discoverer of electro-magnetism; Kielmeyer, the friend of Cuvier (1765-1844); Ignaz Döllinger (1770-1841), one of

the earliest evolutionists; D. G. Kieser (1779-1862), a medical teacher of great influence. More or less influenced by the teachings of this school were Goethe (1749-1832); Karl Ernst von Baer (1792-1876), whose impartial opinion on the *Naturphilosophie* as early as 1821 is important. Further, Liebig (1803-73); Johannes Müller (1801-58); Röschlaub (1768-1835); Schönlein (1793-1864), the founder of what is called the "natural-history" school of medicine.

² See A. von Humboldt's *Life* by Bruhns, translated by Lassell, 1873, vol. ii. p. 145 *sqq.*