

the other he moved in the first social circle in Berlin. Men still live who can bear enthusiastic personal testimony to the noble way in which Von Buch exerted this influence for the benefit of science. After a short illness, he died in Berlin on the 4th March, 1852.

Leopold von Buch was rightly regarded as the greatest geologist of his time. He had studied in every domain of geology; he was familiar with a large part of Europe. Wherever he went, he willingly and freely communicated his own knowledge to others, and ever rejoiced to be able to assist by his money or his influence any one in whom he detected a true devotion to science. At the same time he had little patience with men of mediocre ability, and was very severe towards importunity of any kind. His ridicule was feared as much as his praise was valued. He was an acute thinker and wonderful observer, and possessed in a high degree the rare gift of clear and elegant exposition.

A complete edition of his works was published after his death at Berlin (1867-77).

Alexander von Humboldt, the friend and fellow-student of Von Buch, although less illustrious as a geologist, had a more versatile and philosophical turn of mind. Like Von Buch, Humboldt belonged to an old aristocratic family. He was born in Berlin in 1769, studied at first in Göttingen, afterwards in 1791-92 with Werner at Freiberg. On the completion of his studies he was made Director of Mines, and moved from Bayreuth and Ansbach to Steben in the Fichtel mountains. Several papers written by him during this period on "The Magnetic Properties of Serpentine and other Rocks," attracted the attention of mineralogists. In 1793 he visited the salt mines in the Salzkammergut and Galicia, but in 1796 he resigned his Government appointment, to follow out independent lines of research. During the winter of 1797-98, when he and Von Buch lived together in Salzburg, he made a series of observations on meteorology and earth magnetism, and took barometric and trigonometric measurements of height.

In a treatise published in 1799, Von Humboldt endeavoured to explain the tropical climate of earlier geological periods by a combination of the Laplace theory of heat with Werner's views regarding the precipitation of the primitive rock materials from aqueous solutions. And although his treatise is almost forgotten in science, it contains a number of sug-