

tion. Whereas a society is normally directed by officers elected from among its members, here from the first the members were contradistinguished from the directorate or governing body (*Direktion* or *Zentralkdirektion*) under a President. No machinery was set up for the appointment of Editor and Secretary, who were not *ex officio* members of the Directorate. Stein was, as if by nature, president, and it was assumed that he would appoint the two officers. Members, who became so at first by invitation of Stein or the Directorate, had no right or voice in the affairs of the society; their numbers never increased, and in fact diminished in time almost to vanishing-point. In other words, the society was one of straw; all duties and power lay with the president and the two officers.

Neither Dümge, a sour and difficult man, nor Büchler, who lacked technical competence, was capable of getting the undertaking out of harbour and over the bar, and by the end of 1821 the former had been dropped by Stein while the latter, who had tried to defend his friend, had resigned. Meanwhile Stein had displayed the greatest energy in finding friends and funds, and among his minor achievements may be counted his enlistment of Goethe, whom he set collating a manuscript of Otto of Freising. Nevertheless, the going was not good; Stein himself had to find most of the money to support the first researches, and a considerable sum was lost on useless or senseless travel in search of manuscripts on the part of inefficient collaborators. The situation was saved by the fortunate appearance of Georg Heinrich Pertz (1795-1876).

Pertz¹ came from Hanover, the son and grandson of prosperous bookbinders; as a schoolboy he had seen and experienced the rigours of the French occupation. Educated in classics and history at Göttingen, he was engaged as tutor in Hanover to a family with official and diplomatic connexions which made him familiar with the tastes and manners of high society and ultimately brought him into personal and friendly contact with Stein. Pertz as a young man was highly intelligent, vivacious, good looking and

¹ There is no adequate life of Pertz. An interesting autobiographical fragment, dictated to his second wife in 1869, together with a selection of his letters (in English), was published by Leonora Pertz in ?1894. His letters to Droysen were published in 1896. Bresslau was able to use many others in the archives of *M.G.H.* For Pertz see also *A[llgemeine] D[eutsche] B[iographie]*.