

inquired how his most brilliant and faithful pupil did.¹ Waitz was not only the greatest of German medievalists and a firm leader; he was also a man of singular loyalty and integrity whom all respected as deeply as they admired him. Alike by his energy, his wisdom, his foresight and his personal relations he had rebuilt the *Monumenta*.

The relatively sudden disappearance of Waitz left the succession in the air. Wattenbach was elected acting-president; he had probably been Waitz's choice, and it was assumed by himself and many others that he would succeed without dispute, but in fact a vexatious controversy arose. The directorate was autonomous, with no subordination to the ministry, but the *Monumenta* was financed by the government and Waitz's salary had been paid to the person not to his office. In these circumstances it was natural that the ministry should seize every chance to get control of the appointment, and the executive committee of Berlin academics rent, so it has been suggested, by domestic and foreign rivalries, and dominated by Mommsen, a master-schemer, agreed somewhat hastily that the directorate should do no more than present for nomination by the Kaiser. This might have been a harmless concession, but when they proceeded to elect, opinion was fatally and firmly divided, and Wattenbach and Dümmler received an equal number (7) of votes. This produced an unfortunate deadlock. We need not examine the complicated and painful details of the controversy, which in its progressive stages weakened ever more the position of the directorate *vis-à-vis* the government; in the course of months both Wattenbach and Dümmler refused to stand and then cancelled their refusal. In 1887 it was decided to choose two names for presentation to the government; though the composition of the directorate had changed somewhat the voting resulted as before in a tie; and the government appointed Dümmler. This unfortunate affair had two results; it deprived the directorate of its freedom of election of the president; and it occasioned a change of statute by which the president, no longer necessarily a member of the directorate or in charge of *Scriptores*, was made a full-time director; it was the first step towards an Institute.

¹ See *Abhandlungen d. preussischen Akademie d. Wissenschaften*, 1886, p. 3: 'Was macht denn der treue Waitz?' The words quoted by Wattenbach are also in Eberhard Waitz's memoir, 79.