
Contents

PART I

<i>Introduction</i>	1
1. A Short Life	3

PART II

<i>Family Background</i>	33
2. The Abel Family Tree	35
3. Father's Period of Schooling and Study in Denmark	45
4. Vicar and Curate	55
5. Abel and the Simonsen Family in Risør	59

PART III

<i>Childhood at Gjerstad</i>	67
6. Priest at Finnøy, Church Affairs in the Kristiansand Diocese	69
7. Niels Henrik's First Years	79
8. Childhood Learning, Childhood Faith	85
9. Everyday Life in the Shadow of War	89
10. Ground Swells from Offshore	97
11. New Sounds in City and Hamlet	103
12. Home and Abroad, Crises and Turning Points	109
13. S. G. Abel Steps into Politics	115
14. The Times During Which Niels Henrik Grew Up	125
15. Niels Henrik Leaves Home	131

PART IV

<i>Disciple in Christiania, 1815–1821</i>	139
16. Meeting A New Era	141
17. School Life, Money Worries, and the Joys of the Theatre	147
18. Everyday Life in Christiania. S. G. Abel Enters the Public Spotlight	161
19. Confirmation and Direction in Life	171
20. The Fateful Year, 1818	181
21. Christiania, Fall, 1818	199
22. Into Mathematical History	201
23. School Days and Many More Stories	213
24. To the <i>Examen artium</i> and Further Studies	223
25. Student and Homeless	239

PART V

<i>Student Life, 1821–1825</i>	249
26. Free Room and Board at “Regentsen”	251
27. <i>Examen Philosophicum</i> : The Course of Studies and the Teachers	255
28. Student Life and Circle of Friends	261
29. Spring and Early Summer, 1822	271
30. Summer, Autumn, Winter, Spring	277
31. Copenhagen – Travel, Summer, 1823	287
32. The Quintic Equation and Future Plans	301
33. Betrothal and Preparations	311

PART VI

<i>Europe-Travel</i>	321
34. Through Copenhagen and Hamburg to Berlin	323
35. Berlin, October 1825 to March 1826	329
36. Via Leipzig to Freiberg	351
37. Through Dresden to Prague	355
38. To Vienna	369
39. From Vienna to Graz and Trieste	379
40. Onward to Venice, via Bologna to Bolzano	385
41. In the Dolomites, over to Innsbruck and on to Mount Rigi	391
42. Paris, July 10th to December 29th, 1826	395
43. The Homeward Journey via Berlin and Copenhagen	421

PART VII

The Last Year in Norway 429

44. Back Home 431

45. Christiania, Autumn, 1827 441

46. From January to July, 1828 451

47. The Final Summer 459

48. The Final Round, Autumn, 1828 465

PART VIII

49. Deathbed 481

APPENDIX

1. Chronology 497

2. Commentaries and Supplementary Readings 501

3. Chronological Bibliography of Abel's Published Works 545

4. Annotated Bibliography 553

INDEX OF NAMES 569