The North German School of Diluvial geologists looked with a certain favour upon this explanation, but believed still more in the efficacy of water action. The Berlin physicist, Wrede, in 1802 gave his opinion that the granite "foundling blocks" on the German plain had been brought upon ice-floes from the Silesian mountains. Leopold von Buch in 1810, and one or two later authors, proved, however, that Scandinavia had been the original home of most of the North German erratics; they assumed that gigantic floods had been the chief agent of transport, and that the scratches on the rocks and pebbles had been caused by the friction of the sand, pebbles, and larger fragments during transportation.

Bernhardi, Professor in the Academy of Forestry in Dreissigacker, without any knowledge of the researches of Venetz and Charpentier, by his own insight arrived at the true solution of the problem (*Neues Jahrb. für Miner.*, 1832). He said the polar ice had extended to the southmost edge of the German plain now bestrewn with erratics, and that in the course of thousands of years the polar ice had gradually withdrawn to its present reduced dimensions and more limited fields of glaciation. Before Bernhardi, the Norwegian geologist, Jens Esmarch, in 1824 had suggested there had been a far greater extension of the Norwegian glaciers than now existed. But the tide of influence and authority in Germany at the time ran in other directions; an Esmarch or a Bernhardi might say what they thought, but there the matter ended; none listened while a Von Buch and a Sefström said differently. The Swede, Nils G. Sefström, was the most extreme of the diluvialists. He taught that the northern floods had spread diluvium over Scandinavia, Finland, Russia, and Germany, and borne fragmented rock-material and big boulders from the northern areas as far south as the foot of the Alps.

During the years 1839-43, a brilliant group of British geologists, Lyell, De la Beche, Darwin, and Murchison, thoroughly acquainted with the results of the polar explorations made by Parry, Scoresby, and Ross, founded the "Drift Theory," which appeared to be a satisfactory explanation of all the phenomena. They attributed the transport of erratics and the formation of the thick surface deposits or "boulder formations," known under various local terms in Great Britain, most commonly as "till," or "boulder-clay," to floating icebergs which had drifted far southward from Polar regions. The