faces and angles of the columns, and on the top their cross-section, quite distinct from each other. I was thus led to believe that prismatic basalt belonged to the class of volcanic products, and that its constant and regular form was the result of its ancient state of fusion. I only thought then of multiplying my observations, with the view of establishing the true nature of the phenomenon, and its conformity with what is to be found in Antrim—a conformity which would involve other points of resemblance."

He narrates the course of his discoveries as he journeyed into the Mont Dore, detecting in many places fresh confirmation of the conclusion he had formed. But not only did he convince himself that the prismatic basalts of Auvergne were old lava-streams, he carried his induction much further and felt assured that the Irish basalts must also have had a volcanic origin. "I could not doubt," he says, "after these varied and repeated observations, that the groups of prismatic columns in Auvergne belonged to the same conformation as those of Antrim, and that the constant and regular form of the columns must have resulted from the same cause in both regions. What convinced me of the truth of this opinion was the examination of the material constituting the Auvergne columns with that from the Giant's Causeway, which I found to agree in texture, colour and hardness, and further, the sight of two engravings of the Irish locality which at once recalled the scenery of parts of Mont Dore. I draw, from this recognised resemblance