

form in his mind a more or less definite picture of chemical precipitation from aqueous solution, as applied to the history of rock-masses. But be this as it may, he was aware that basalt, by not a few observers before his time, had been claimed as a rock of volcanic origin. How far he had then made up his mind as to the formation of that rock must remain in doubt. But he tells us himself that at the Stolpen he "found not a trace of volcanic action, nor the smallest proof of volcanic origin. So I ventured publicly to assert and prove that all basalts could certainly not be of volcanic origin, and that to these non-volcanic rocks the Stolpen mass undoubtedly belongs. Though at first I met with much opposition, yet soon several geognosts came over to my views. These views gained special importance from the observations which I made in 1777 on the old subterranean fire in the coal-field that lies around the hills of basalt and porphyry-slate in the middle of Bohemia, and the consequent pseudo-volcanic hills that have arisen there. After further more matured research and consideration, I hold that no basalt is volcanic, but that all these rocks, as well as the other Primitive and Floetz rocks, are of aqueous origin."¹

¹ *Kurze Klassifikation und Beschreibung der Verschiedenen Gebirgsarten*, 1787, p. 25. Later in the same year (1787) he visited a little eminence near Scheibenberg in the Erzgebirge, and found there a cake of basalt lying on clay and sand, and thought he could trace these materials passing into each other. Whereupon he announced as a "new discovery" that all basalt is of aqueous origin, and constitutes, with clay, sand and wacke, one single formation which originally extended far and wide over the primitive and floetz rocks, but has in course of time been worn away, leaving only cappings on the hills.—Kefenstein, *Geschichte der Geognosie*, p. 69.