

von Buch] has just visited. That the citizen D'Aubuisson knows how to observe, is shown by his published works, even if the memoir we have now been considering were not ample enough proof, and the interest of his observations cannot be recognised in a manner more useful to science than by encouraging him to continue them."

D'Aubuisson lost no time in following the advice thus given to him. He went to Auvergne and found the basaltic rocks there lying on granite, which in some valleys could be seen to be more than 1200 feet thick. If these basaltic rocks were lavas, they must, according to the Wernerian doctrine, have resulted from the combustion of beds of coal. But how could coal be supposed to exist under granite, which was the first chemical precipitate of a primeval ocean? Such an infra-position was inconceivable, and thus an apparent confirmation of the Freiberg view of the aqueous origin of basalt was at first obtained. But a very short time sufficed to stagger the young geologist. He saw the perfect craters with their rugged lava-streams, which he followed along their branches into the valleys. It was impossible to resist this evidence. "The facts which I saw," he says, "spoke too plainly to be mistaken; the truth revealed itself too clearly before my eyes, so that I must either have absolutely refused the testimony of my senses in not seeing the truth, or that of my conscience in not straightway making it known. There can be no question that basalts of volcanic origin occur in Auvergne and the Vivarais. There are found in Saxony, and in basaltic districts