

D'Aubuisson, but his announcement of it was much more sensational. It was in the spring of 1802 that he went to Central France, but owing to various accidents the second volume of his travels did not appear until the year 1809.<sup>1</sup> He had made no secret, however, of his change of opinion, for in the winter following his French tour, a letter from him was published, recommending a geologist who wanted to see volcanoes to choose Auvergne rather than Vesuvius or Etna.<sup>2</sup> His views were thus well known to Haüy and Ramond when they recommended D'Aubuisson to betake himself to the same volcanic region.

When his fuller account of his rambles in Auvergne appeared, its very first sentence betrayed a curious ignorance or forgetfulness of the literature of the subject. "Here we are," he says, "in a region about which the naturalists of France have talked so much, to which they have persistently referred us, but which they have never yet described to us." It is difficult to believe that Von Buch had never seen Desmarest's papers and accompanying maps. Yet throughout the whole account which he gives of his excursions he does not once refer to them, but writes as if he were almost

<sup>1</sup>The descriptions of Auvergne are contained in an Appendix to vol. ii., consisting of *Mineralogische Briefe aus Auvergne an Herrn Geh. Ober-Bergrath Karsten*, p. 227 (1809).

<sup>2</sup>*Journal des Mines*, vol. xiii. 1802-1803, p. 249. Boué, in an obituary notice of Von Buch, says picturesquely that "in the year 1798 the learned geognost left Germany a Neptunist and came home in 1800 a Vulcanist." His conversion, though as complete, was not quite so rapid, for even after his visit to Italy and Central France, though he gave up some parts of the Wernerian system, he still clung tenaciously to others which he afterwards abandoned.