Prudelle, near Clermont, basaltic pillars in close relationship with a lava flow, and he spent many years in collecting facts to prove the volcanic origin of the basalt. The work which he published in the *Mémoires de l'Académie royale des Sciences* (1774-75) established the igneous origin of basalt without a shadow of doubt.

Desmarest was himself so entirely convinced of the result of his conclusions that he took no part in the strife between Neptunists and Volcanists, but when questioned by any hesitating adherents of either party he used to reply laconically, "Go and see."

It was remarkable how completely Werner and his school ignored the incontestable results of Desmarest. And the later work by Desmarest, "On the Determination of different Epochs of Volcanic Activity in Auvergne," was also neglected in Germany (*Mém. de l'Inst. Sc., Math. et Phys.*, 1806). His own countrymen, however, fully realised the value of Desmarest's achievements. Following the same lines as Desmarest, Faujas de Saint-Fond and Abbé Soulavie made known the volcanoes of Vivarais and Velay with their magnificent basaltic pillars and lava streams; so that when D'Aubisson, a student of Werner's, returning to Paris from Freiberg, tried to spread Neptunian doctrines, he had no success, and a visit to Auvergne converted D'Aubisson himself to Volcanistic beliefs.

The intellectual politician and scientific investigator, Count Reynaud de Montlosier, published in 1789 an Essay on the Volcanoes of Auvergne, in which he promulgated a new theory about volcanoes. Like Desmarest, Montlosier recognised that there were in Auvergne volcanoes of different ages. The younger have preserved their typical conical form and their craters uninjured. The older are for the most part situated at higher levels, and these characteristic features are absent; they are connected ridges or isolated mountains composed of pillared basalt, or trachytic rocks, frequently reposing on granite. Whereas it is clear that the younger craters and cones of loose ejected material and lava are of true volcanic character, Montlosier claimed for the older and relatively higher groups of igneous rocks that they represented a single upheaval of an extensive viscous mass of rock-material that had then cooled in the elevated position.

The Pyrenees also attracted the attention of French geologists towards the close of the eighteenth century. Abbé