

Greek Archipelago, in the Adriatic and Tyrrhenian Seas, on the north coast of the Mediterranean Sea, and on the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, the North and Baltic Seas.

The second volume treats of volcanoes, earthquakes, and geysers. The author brings forward no new hypothesis about the causes of these phenomena, but follows largely the views of Von Humboldt and Von Buch. The chief merit of Von Hoff is his careful epitome of all reliable information regarding the changes and disturbances which have been produced by volcanoes and earthquakes within historic time.

Ten years elapsed between the appearance of the second and the third volume of Von Hoff's work. During the interval the first volume of Charles Lyell's *Principles of Geology* was published, and its influence upon Von Hoff is quite apparent in the third volume of his work. In this third volume, Von Hoff discusses the causes of the degradation of land. The changes in surface conformation and the gradual destruction of a continent are referred to atmospheric agencies, to the chemical and mechanical action of water, snow, and ice, to living organisms, and to the erosive action and usurpations of the sea over coastal territories. He discredits Buckland's hypothesis of a universal flood in a learned and convincing chapter.

The meritorious work of Von Hoff did not meet with the full recognition which it deserved. This arose largely from the fact that Von Hoff drew his data almost wholly from literature, his modest circumstances not permitting him to visit the localities of which he wrote; his conclusions were therefore based upon historical evidence.

In France, Constant Prévost, quite independently of Von Hoff's work, attacked the catastrophal theory of Cuvier. In 1825, Prévost announced his view that the physical conditions and phenomena of the present age were in every respect similar to those which had characterised the past geological epochs. In 1828, he repeated this opinion, and protested against the frequent inundations by the sea assumed by Cuvier and Brongniart to have taken place in the Paris basin. Prévost's attack upon Cuvier's theory had little effect, as it was not supported by any new data, and he weakened his arguments by allowing that certain geological forces might have developed stronger energies in past epochs than in the present.