

acquaintance with the mode of occurrence of the volcanic rocks in Rhineland enabled him gradually to form his own judgments, and these were unfavourable to Von Buch's theory. A visit to Auvergne, Mont d'Or, and the Cantal mountains still further shook his confidence in it. He examined the basaltic rocks above the Tertiary fresh-water limestone of Limagne, and felt convinced that these could not have been bulged up as solid rock from the ocean-floor, but must have flowed into their present position superficially as a lava. Again, he could see no evidence in favour of Von Buch's hypothesis that the ravines of the Cantal represent eruptive fissures formed during upheaval, but rather believed them to be ordinary erosion valleys. Steininger, however, continued to retain Von Buch's theory of volcanic upheaval as applicable to the particular cases of isolated conical hills composed of domite or trachyte rock.

The strongest opponents of Von Buch's theory were, however, Poulett-Scrope,¹ Charles Lyell, and Constant Prévost.

In 1816-17, Poulett-Scrope, as a young student, had the opportunity of observing the volcanic surroundings of Naples, and this gave the impulse to his scientific studies. He returned in 1818, 1819, and 1822 to Southern Italy, and visited Vesuvius, Etna, the Lipari Isles, the neighbourhood of Rome, and the Euganian Isles. In 1821 he spent several months in the Auvergne district, and in 1823 he made himself acquainted with the Rhineland and Eifel volcanoes described by Steininger.

In 1825 he published his famous work on Volcanoes, and in 1826 his excellent monograph of the extinct volcanoes in Central France. Poulett-Scrope's works have held their position as the basis of volcanic teaching. Like Hutton and his own contemporary, Charles Lyell, he was a Uniformitarian, and tried to explain the events of past geological ages by the action of forces which exist.

Observing the enormous expansive force of the aqueous

¹ George Poulett-Scrope was born in 1797 in London, the son of a rich merchant, J. Poulett Thomson; he studied in Cambridge under Professor Sedgwick, and assumed the name of Scrope after his marriage with the heiress of the old Scrope family. He became a Member of Parliament in 1833, and afterwards devoted himself mainly to political activity, but did not neglect his studies on volcanoes. In 1867 the Geological Society conferred the Wollaston medal on him. He died at Fairlawn, Surrey, in January 1875.