

establishment of a true geognosy.¹ While still pursuing his studies in Saxony, D'Aubuisson took up the question of the basalts of that kingdom, travelled over all their scattered hills, and at last wrote a treatise upon them, which appeared in Paris in 1803. In this little volume of 170 pages the Wernerian doctrine as to the origin of basalt is not only accepted but treated as if it were incontestable. In one passage, indeed, the author guards himself by saying that his conclusions have reference only to the basalts which he himself has seen, and that if some day he can visit Auvergne and the Vivarais, he perhaps may be better able to discuss the question more generally, and to appreciate what has been written on the other side.² His essay was presented to the Institute of Sciences, and the two referees, Haüy and Ramond, to whom it was submitted, appended to their favourable report on it a most judicious piece of advice to the young author. "A subject," they say, "where the analogies already hazarded have led to more than one mistake, demands the utmost caution in their use, and in a field which the two parties dispute foot by foot, every step should be justified by an observation and marked by a fact. Citizen D'Aubuisson has never seen either active or extinct volcanoes. Living till now in the midst of aqueous formations, we should like him to visit places where fire has manifested its empire. We would especially desire that he should see the basalts of Auvergne, which another disciple of Werner [Leopold

¹ *Traité de Géognosie* (1819), vol. i. preface, p. xv.

² *Mémoire sur les Basaltes de la Saxe*, Paris, 1803, pp. 97, 100, 101.