

generally, masses of rock with an exactly similar groundmass, which enclose exactly and exclusively the same crystals, and which have exactly the same structure in the field. There is not merely an analogy, but a complete similarity; and we cannot escape from the conclusion that there has also been an entire identity in formation and origin."<sup>1</sup>

The frank and courageous Wernerian read his recantation before the Institute of France the year after his work on the Saxon basalts appeared.<sup>2</sup> Still retaining his profound admiration for Werner, he nevertheless relinquished one after another the peculiar tenets of the Freiberg school, and became so impartial a chronicler of geological progress, that in his remarkably able *Treatise on Geognosy*, though inclining, on the whole, to his master's system, he did not entirely

<sup>1</sup> *Géognosie*, vol. ii. pp. 603, 605. Ch. Keferstein wrote a learned disquisition on Basalt entitled "Beiträge zur Geschichte und Kenntniss des Basaltes, und der ihm verwandten Massen," which is contained in the *Neue Schriften der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft zu Halle*, Band ii. 1819. The last part of the Memoir (pp. 139-250) consists of a review of the various opinions which up to that time had been expressed in regard to the nature of the rock, and contains copious references to authorities.

<sup>2</sup> "Sur les volcans et les basaltes de l'Auvergne," read to the Institute of Sciences in 1804; *Journ. de Physique*, tom. lviii. p. 427, lix. p. 367, lxxxviii. (1819), p. 432; *Soc. Philom. Bull. Paris*, 1804, p. 182. It is an indication of the slowness of the transmission of scientific news in those days that in the English translation of D'Aubuisson's *Basalts of Saxony*, which appeared at Edinburgh in 1814—that is, eleven years after the original—the translator states that he had heard of the author's having modified his views regarding the basalts of Auvergne, but that he was not aware that he had expressed any change of opinion in respect of those of Saxony.