

Macculloch (1773-1835), published in 1819. This now classic work undoubtedly gave a great impetus to geological progress, especially in the department of the science which deals with the igneous rocks. The number and striking character of the illustrations which it afforded of the truly eruptive nature of these rocks did much to strengthen the Plutonist cause throughout the world. Yet though the region described included the great basalt-plateaux of the Inner Hebrides, with what we now recognise to be their abundant evidence of the superficial outpouring of streams of basic lava and showers of volcanic ashes, in continuous sequence, as clearly exposed along hundreds of miles of sea-precipices, no reader of Macculloch's volumes would be likely to gather from them that any such record of prolonged volcanic activity is to be found in the West of Scotland. Even so late as the year 1832, K. C. von Leonhard, in his ample monograph on *Die Basalt-Gebilde*, fully describes the volcanic features of these rocks as displayed in Auvergne, the Eifel and other districts, but when he comes to deal with the sheets of basalt intercalated among the strata of the Earth's crust, he is chiefly careful to mark their connection with dykes, and the proofs they furnish that they have been injected into and have altered the contiguous strata. It would almost appear that if in the earlier years of last century a Vulcanist had maintained the contemporaneity of a basalt-sheet with the sedimentary deposits among which it lay, he would have run some risk of being regarded as having gone over to the Neptunist camp.

Notwithstanding the lessons so clearly taught by