

craters regarded by him simply as eruptive orifices. The alleged differences resolved themselves into a question of comparative dimensions, and these could be explained by the varying intensity of the explosive convulsions.

The French Government had sent Constant Prévost, in August 1831, to Pantellaria, in order to study the newly-formed Graham's Island, or Île Julia, as the French Expedition called it. The island vanished in three months, and Prévost was one of the few favoured individuals who had succeeded in visiting and making drawings of it. After fulfilling this commission, he travelled through Sicily, climbed Etna, made a stay in the Lipari Islands, and finally met Hoffmann and Escher von der Linth in Naples. Excursions made in the company of these geologists to Vesuvius and the Phlegræan fields brought Prévost's memorable tour to a conclusion. Several accounts of his journeys were sent by Prévost to the Academy of Sciences and the Geological Society of Paris.

Meantime, in Paris, Élie de Beaumont (1829-30) had discussed the Elevation-Crater theory in various publications, and had given it strong support; and when Prévost in his first report on the Island of Julia to the Academy ventured to doubt the theory, and in September 1832, in a second report, went so far as to openly deny the existence of elevation-craters in any volcanic district visited by him, he aroused the displeasure of all the leading members of the Academy. Only the venerable Cordier, who had seen the Canary Isles, expressed agreement with him. In the December of that year Prévost won a valuable ally in Virlet, who proved that the Santorin group, which had hitherto been included amongst elevation-craters, consisted wholly of ejected material.

In the following years controversy became as keen in the discussion of Buch's theory as it had been in Werner's time over the discussion of the volcanic or aqueous origin of basalt. Annoyed by the attacks on his favourite theory, Buch undertook, in the autumn of 1834, another journey to Italy along with Link, Élie de Beaumont, and Dufrenoy. New evidences were collected, and his views were afterwards pronounced even more firmly. "Craters of Elevation are," he wrote, "remnants of a powerful manifestation of energy from the earth's interior, which is capable of uplifting large islands many square miles in breadth to a considerable elevation.