

expectation of the great panorama which he will enjoy, and of the new truths which it will display to him, renews his strength and his courage. He gains the top. His eyes, dazzled and drawn equally in every direction, at first know not where to fix themselves. By degrees he grows accustomed to the great light, makes choice of the objects that should chiefly occupy his attention, and determines the order to be followed in observing them. But what words can describe the sensations or the ideas with which the sublime spectacle fills the soul of the philosopher. Standing as it were above the globe, he seems to discover the forces that move it, at least he recognizes the principal agents that effect its revolutions."

De Saussure spent his life among the scenes he so enthusiastically described, studying the meteorology no less than the geology of the Alps. As regards the geological structure of mountains and the origin of their component rocks, however, he seems hardly to have advanced beyond the ideas of Pallas. He believed, with Werner, that the central granite had resulted from deposition and crystallization in the waters of a primeval ocean. The vertical or highly inclined limestones, and other strata flanking the granite, were for a long time regarded by him as still in the position in which they were originally deposited. It was only when he found among these strata layers of sand and rounded pebbles that he was driven to admit that there had been some disturbance of the earth's surface.

Like Pallas and his contemporaries generally, De Saussure never attempted to set down his observations