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was obviously related to the public reaction--mostly by Neptunists-- against his first *Theory of the Earth* of 1788. [See Hutton's Vol. I. pp. 201-268] under the heading *Kirwan's objections ...*] This theory had been largely based on Hutton's investigations in the Alpine regions of Scotland, whereas some of his critics were talking about the Alps and various other European mountains.

While Hutton had found reliable proofs for his theory in Scotland, he felt now that he had to compare the Alps--which he had never seen-- with the mountain regions in Scotland. Only then could he convince his critics and the world that his global theory was the one to accept.

Unfortunately, he was unable to travel during his last years and thus had to refer to Saussure's well-known descriptions in *Voyages dans les Alpes*. The reading of the first two volumes of that famous work became his major occupation. With relatively little time at his disposal to accomplish all the reading and restructuring of his last two volumes, I believe that he became more and more obsessed in his goal to convince his audience that his theory was entirely acceptable.

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[Hutton died before receiving Saussure's vols. III and IV.]
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