

of the distribution of the rock-formations upon a map, nor, though he had before him the excellent sections constructed by Lehmann, to which reference will be made in the following chapter, did he give definite expression to his ideas of the mutual relations of the rocks by constructing a horizontal section even of the most general and diagrammatic kind. It is thus a somewhat laborious task to gather from his *Voyages dans les Alpes* what precisely were the opinions he held in regard to tectonic questions. To him, however, so far as I have been able to discover, we owe the first adoption of the terms geology and geologist. This science had formed a part of mineralogy, and subsequently of physical geography. The earliest writer who dignified it with the name it now bears was the first great explorer of the Alps.<sup>1</sup>

De Saussure's theoretical views underwent some modification during the prolonged period occupied by the publication of his work, though they seem never

<sup>1</sup>In the year 1778 there appeared at the Hague the first imperfect edition of De Luc's *Lettres Physiques et Morales sur les Montagnes*, in the introduction to which the author states that for the science that treats of the knowledge of the earth he employs the designation of Cosmology. The proper word, he admits, should have been Geology, but he "could not venture to adopt it because it was not a word in use" (Preface, p. viii.). In the completed edition of his work, published the next year, he repeats his statement as to the use of the term Cosmology, yet he uses Geology in his text notwithstanding (vol. i. pp. 4, 5). In the same year (1779), De Saussure employs the term Geology in his first volume without any explanation or apology, and alludes to the geologist as if he were a well-known species of natural philosopher. (See his *Discours Préliminaire*, pp. vii., ix., xiv., xvi.)