

trations of the truth of the conclusions at which he had arrived. At one time he was busy among the roots of the Grampian Hills, at another he was to be seen scouring the lonely moorlands of Galloway, or climbing the precipices and glens of Arran. His visit to Glen Tilt has been made memorable by Playfair's brief account of it.¹ He had conjectured that in the bed of the river Tilt actual demonstration might be found that the Highland granite has disrupted the surrounding schists. Playfair describes how "no less than six large veins of red granite were seen in the course of a mile, traversing the black micaceous schistus, and producing, by the contrast of colour, an effect that might be striking even to an unskilful observer. The sight of objects which verified at once so many important conclusions in his system, filled him with delight ; and as his feelings, on such occasions, were always strongly expressed, the guides who accompanied him were convinced that it must be nothing less than the discovery of a vein of silver or gold that could call forth such strong marks of joy and exultation."

Another of Hutton's fundamental generalisations was tested in as vivid and successful a manner. He taught that the ruins of an earlier world lie beneath the secondary strata, and that where the base of these strata can be seen, it will be found to reveal, by what is now known as an unconformability, its relation to the older rocks. He had at various points in Scotland satisfied himself by actual observation that this relation holds good. But he determined to verify it

¹ Hutton's account is in the portion of the third volume of his *Theory* referred to in a note on p 297.