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GLACIERS AND THEIR FORMATION.

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THE HOME OF THE GLACIER.

To the thought of the average person the word glacier calls to the mind an irregular sheet or mass of ice, occupying the higher valleys of mountain regions, like the Alps, or the polar regions of the far North or South. The Swiss mountains have become famous for their glaciers, by their situation in the midst of that portion of the old world in which civilization, arts, travel, commerce, and education have their fullest development!

In 1827 Hugi built a hut on the Aar glacier, and began a series of researches into the character of glacial phenomena. It was known even to the less observing that the ice in the glacier had a sort of motion. It was also known that in some way, as the ice at the lower end of the glacier melted away, its place was supplied from above, and that in some seasons

the sheet of ice extended further down in the valley than at others, but it was apparently not known to any one that the ice motion was subject to any fixed laws.

It did not take a protracted investigation to prove that there was a regular movement of the ice, according to law, but several scientists joined Professor Agassiz in his investigations, among them being Professor Forbes, and the well-known Professor Tyndall, all working more or less independently.

A glacier, then, is a stream of ice, moving in obedience to the same laws, though much more slowly, as a stream of water. The source of supply is snow. Accordingly, the location most favourable for the production of glaciers is one where there are winds heavily laden with moisture coming in contact with currents