

the purpose of making experiments. On arriving at the mountain the party dismounted and scrambled up the side of a hill, a distance of a quarter of a mile, with the assistance of the branches of trees and projecting roots. In consequence of the heavy rain that had fallen in the night, this was rendered more difficult. When a few yards from the valley, a strong nauseous and suffocating smell was experienced; but on approaching the margin this inconvenience was no longer found. The scene that now presented itself is described as of the most appalling nature. The valley is about half a mile in circumference, of an oval shape, and about thirty or thirty-five feet in depth. The bottom of it appeared to be flat, without any vegetation, and a few large stones scattered here and there. The attention of the party was immediately attracted to the number of skeletons of human beings, tigers, boars, deer, and all sorts of birds and wild animals, which lay about in profusion. The ground on which they lay at the bottom of the valley appeared to be a hard sandy substance, and no vapour was perceived issuing from it, nor any opening through which it might escape, and the sides were covered with vegetation. It was now proposed to enter it, and each of the party, having lit a cigar, managed to get within twenty feet of the bottom, where a sickening nauseous smell was experienced, without any difficulty in breathing. A dog was now fastened to the end of a bamboo and thrust to the bottom of the valley, while some of the party, with their watches in their hands, observed the effects. At the expiration of fourteen seconds the dog fell off his legs, without moving or looking round, and continued alive only eighteen minutes. The other dog now left the party and went to his companion; on reaching him, he was observed to stand quite motionless, & at the end of ten seconds fell down; he never moved his limbs after, and lived only seven minutes. A fowl was now thrown in, which died in a minute and a half; and another, which was thrown after it, died in the space of a minute and a half. A heavy shower of rain fell during the time that these experiments were going forward, which, from the interesting nature of the experiments, was quite disregarded. On the opposite side of the valley to that which was visited, lay a human skeleton, the head resting on the right arm. The effects of the

weather had bleached the bones as white as ivory. Two hours were passed in this valley of death: and the party had some difficulty in getting out of it, owing to the rain that had fallen. The human skeletons are supposed to be those of rebels, who have been pursued from the main road, and taken refuge in the valley, without knowing the danger to which they were exposing themselves.

TRANSPARENCY OF THE SEA.

There is perhaps nothing that strikes the northern traveller more than the singular transparency of the waters; and the farther he penetrates into the Arctic regions, the more forcibly is his attention riveted to this fact. At the depth of twenty fathoms, or a hundred and twenty feet, the whole surface of the ground is exposed to view. Beds composed entirely of shells, sand lightly sprinkled with them, and submarine forests, present through the clear medium new wonders to the unaccustomed eye. It is stated by Sir Chapel de Brooke, and fully confirmed by my observation in Norway, that sometimes in the fiords of Nordland the sea is transparent to a depth of four or five hundred feet; and that when a boat passes over subaqueous mountains, whose summits rise above that line, but whose bases are fixed in an unathomable abyss the visible illusion is so perfect, that one who has gradually in tranquil progress passed over the surface, ascended wonderingly the rugged steps, shrinks back with horror as he crosses the vertex, under an impression that he is falling headlong down the precipice. The transparency of tropical waters generally, as far as my experience goes, is not comparable to that of the sea in these northern latitudes; though an exception may be made in favour of the China seas, and a few insulated spots in the Atlantic. Every one who has passed over the bank known to sailors as the Saya de Malha, ten degrees north of the Mauritius, must remember with pleasure the world of shells and coral which the translucent water exposes to view at a depth of thirty or five and-thirty fathoms. — ELLIOT.

DEPTH OF THE SEA.

Dr. Young intimates the mean depth of the Atlantic Ocean to be about three miles, and that of the Pacific four miles. The European seas are less profound. According