

OVER THE COTTIAN ALPS—THE MONT CENIS ROUTE.

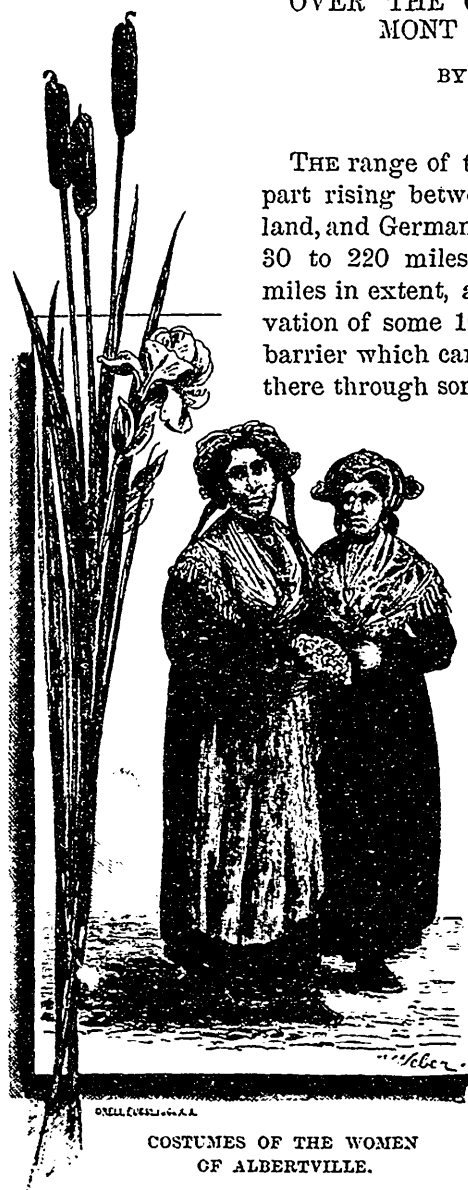
BY V. BARBIER.

I.

THE range of the Alps, an enormous rampart rising between Italy, France, Switzerland, and Germany, varying in breadth from 30 to 220 miles, in a vast semicircle 750 miles in extent, and attaining a mean elevation of some 10,000 feet, forms a gigantic barrier which can be crossed only here and there through some deep depression, and by

their side the famous wall of China would seem a mere toy.

This magic name—the Alps—awakens in us recollections of mighty conquests and of the proud conquerors who have forced their way across this seemingly impassable barrier, but it also leads us to reflect on the still greater victories gained by modern science and enterprise over the forces of nature, by the construction of roads and railways which permit of a safe and easy transit across the mountains, and it fills us further with pleasing anticipations of excursions to be undertaken among grand



COSTUMES OF THE WOMEN
OF ALBERTVILLE.

and romantic scenery, and of mountain peaks to be scaled, not without danger, it may be, but with a sense of enjoyment which danger does but heighten.

Soon after crossing the swift and turbid Rhone, the train begins to climb the foot-hills of the Alps of Savoy, taking ad-