

they sought some friends who had gone before them into Goldau, but this village was lost under a heap of stones and rubbish, one hundred feet in height, and the whole valley presented nothing but confusion. Nothing is left of Goldau but the bell which hung in its steeple, and which was found about a mile off. With the rocks torrents of mud came down, acting as rollers ; but they took a different direction when in the valley, the mud following the slope of the ground towards the lake of Lowertz, while the rocks, preserving a straight course, glanced across the valley towards the Righi. The rocks above, moving much faster than those near the ground, went farther, and ascended even a great way up the Righi : its base is covered with large blocks carried to an incredible height, and by which trees were mowed down as they might have been by cannon.

Such are the fearful effects of a mountain-slip. The glacier may also be the cause of no less imminent dangers.

The Val de Bagnes, near Martigny, has been more than once devastated by means of masses of ice and snow from the glacier of Getroz, completely blocking up the mountain torrent which feeds the river Dranse. Behind this barrier the waters accumulated in a fearful manner in 1818, forming a lake which was estimated to contain eight hundred millions of cubic feet of water. Notwithstanding the most persevering and ingenious efforts to drain this lake by means of a tunnel cut through the ice, the waters burst through the barrier with a tremendous crash, carrying away rocks, forests, bridges, houses, and cultivated lands.

Between Martigny and the lake of Geneva, in the month of August, 1835, a torrent of mud descended from the summit of the Dent de Midi, into the Vallais near Evionaz. The following account of this catastrophe has been communicated to us by a gentleman who visited the spot in August, 1838.

“ It would appear, from the accounts of the people in the neighborhood, that one day in August, 1835, a crashing noise was heard in the mountain, and shortly afterwards the *ecoulement* or torrent was seen to issue from the ravine, overthrowing and carrying along with it trees and everything else that it met in its course. The advance of the slimy torrent, although not rapid, was irresistible, and in about a couple of hours it had covered, in a fan-like form, the whole slope down to the Rhone. No lives were lost ; but the peasants who lived in a few scattered cottages in the ravine,