

## LOITERINGS IN EUROPE.

## ALPINE PICTURES.

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## I.



SWISS WAYSIDE INN.

SWITZERLAND is a name familiar to us from school-boy days, and the name always awakens in our minds thoughts of the romantic and the grand. The home-sickness of the Swiss has passed into a proverb; and no wonder that they never forget the land of their birth, for, as they say—"There is but *one* Switzerland." I have been permitted, in the good providence of God, to realise one of the wildest of my boyhood's day-dreams—have gazed on the glory of the Alpine sunset, have trodden the glaciers, and fields of

eternal snow, have penetrated the profoundest valleys and the weirdest grottoes in scaling those Alps which once were Switzerland's battlements of freedom.

The greatest length of the country, from east to west, is 180 miles; its greatest breadth, from north to south, 130 miles. Its area is, therefore, about equal to one-fourth of England and Wales. The ramifications of the two mountain chains, the Alps and the Jura, cover more than one half of its area. But a small portion, comparatively, is plain, or even moderately hilly; and only here and along the narrow valleys, can the husbandman find it worth his