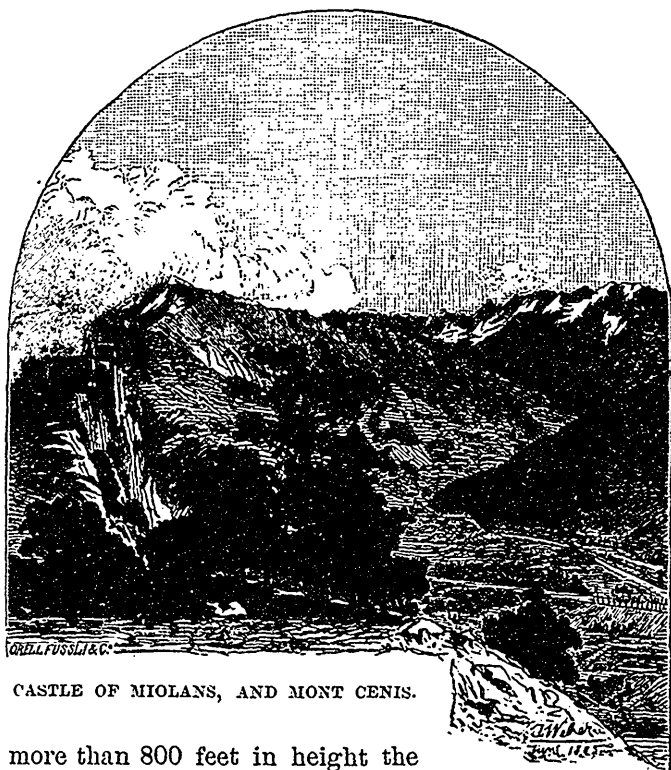


Many of the hill-tops are crowned with ancient castles, of which tradition records many a stirring tale. The castle of Chignin was built, it is said, at the time when the Saracens were occupying and devastating this district, which they had invaded after their defeat at the battle of Poitiers. The ruins of the castle of Chignin are extremely massive, and have in part defied both the action of time and the hand of man.

Near the railway we notice at the summit of a perpendicular



CASTLE OF MIOLANS, AND MONT CENIS.

rock more than 800 feet in height the ruins of the famous castle of Miolans, standing at the base of the Arclusaz. This ancient stronghold was the abode of one of the oldest houses of Savoy. At a later date the castle was converted into a state prison, and some celebrated victims of statecraft have been immured in this terrible fortress, the Bastille of Savoy. First among them we may name Père Monod, who was sacrificed for reasons of state to the political enmity of Richelieu. Another celebrated personage imprisoned at Miolans, was the famous Marquis de Sade. Thanks to the assistance of his wife, he succeeded in escaping, in spite of the formidable situation of the castle, by lowering himself down