

THE POLAR REGIONS.

IN order to increase the interest, and at the same time to give a more comprehensive view of those extraordinary regions of everlasting ice and snow, under different aspects, the present Panorama has been divided into two distinct subjects, one-half the great circle exhibiting the Polar seas at midnight in the summer season, the other presenting a similar scene at noon, under all the sublime severities of an arctic winter.

The summer portion of the Panorama, to which the spectator is first introduced, represents the Expedition in the month of July, in what was named Glacier Harbour, on the coast of Greenland, in latitude $73^{\circ} 42' N.$, longitude $55^{\circ} 20' W.$, "threading their way as they best could through lanes of water in the ice, which extended to the very verge of the horizon, and was thickly studded with bergs of great size." Desolation here reigns triumphant; all is wild disorder. The sea, piled into solid mountains of ice, strangely mingles its white pinnacles with the dark and frowning summits of rock that here and there rise to an immense height; and the earth, buried beneath its cumbrous load of frozen water, blends its dreary shores, undistinguishable by any boundaries, with the bleak deserts of the ocean; all seems one continued and vast pack of ice in close array,—a sublimely picturesque scene, of which there exists no parallel. Towering ice-bergs of gigantic size and the most fantastic shapes; immense hummocks; hugo masses of ice formed by pressure; columns, pyramids, and an endless multitude of singular forms, heaped together in the wildest disorder, threatening each moment, as they are driven in mighty strife by the wind or tide, to crush the ships to atoms. In some parts hugo stalactitæ are gracefully pendant from the larger masses; others present sparry crystals and brilliant icicles, exhibiting a thousand nameless effects of light and shade, arising from proximity or distance, the prominent surfaces being tinged with vivid emerald and violet tints, whilst in clofts, crevices, and deep recesses, lurk shades of the most intense blue, strikingly contrasting with the alabaster-like fabrics by which they are surrounded. At the distance of about three miles, rises an immense and imposing barrier of ice, a vast glacier, the supposed line of the coast of Greenland, beyond which are again plains and rugged wastes of ice, whilst a remote line of mountains are seen along the horizon, in some parts in considerable length, without interruption; in others abruptly broken off for a short space, and again resumed; the whole forming a sublime and splendid exhibition of icy grandeur.