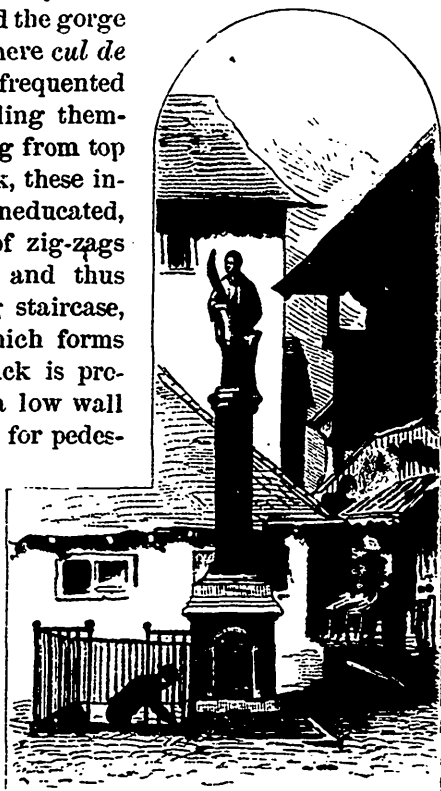


But how to reach the village of Leukerbad is the question. It lies 2,000 feet below us; the huge hotels looking like toy-houses in the distance. The bastions of rock are perpendicular; in some places they even overhang the valley. Yet down the face of this scarp'd rock must we descend. From below a few men and mules may be seen making their way upward or downward, and looking like flies clinging to the bare surface of the rock. They are passing over a perfectly good road, made in the course of the last century by a party of Tyrolese work-people, who have turned the gorge of the Dala from being a mere *cul de sac* into one of the most frequented passes in the Alps. Availing themselves of a deep cleft, running from top to bottom of the wall of rock, these ingenious and daring, though uneducated, engineers formed a series of zig-zags up the sides of the chasm, and thus have constructed a winding staircase, about five feet in width, which forms an excellent road. The track is protected on the outer side by a low wall of railings, and is quite safe for pedestrians. There is little or no danger in riding up the pass; but to ride down is sheer madness. The Countess of Arlincourt, travelling with her husband on her bridal tour, fell over the precipice and was dashed to pieces. The cantonal authorities now require all persons to dismount at the top and walk down. Invalids borne down to the baths sometimes have their eyes blindfolded to avoid seeing the perils of the way. The old lady of the Quaker party above mentioned was carried down in a chair by relays of strong-armed guides, who sang a wild refrain, which was weirdly echoed from the opposite wall of rock. The young ladies walked down, which it requires pretty good nerve to do. To the right of the picture on page 524 may be traced the zig-zag line of the winding path. This is shown more in detail in the cut on page 525. The



ST. LAWRENCE WELL, BATHS OF LEUK.

This is shown more in detail in the cut on page 525. The