

In Switzerland, thousands of huge blocks of granite have been transported from one ridge of mountains to another, across the wide and deep valley that separates them, with so little injury that their angles are not at all worn. This is the most remarkable of all the known localities of erratic stones. The Alps are here separated from the Jura Mountains by a distance of 30 miles between their bases, but the distance between the highest points of these two chains is 80 miles. The Jura is of secondary limestone, and yet upon its slopes, 800 feet above the level of the lake of Neufchatel, which lies in the valley below, there is a long line of granitic blocks extending for miles, and consisting of a material only found in the distant chain of the Alps. Professor Forbes states of these, that "wherever seen they fill the mind with astonishment, when it is recollected that as a matter of certainty these vast rocks, larger than no mean cottages, have been removed from the distant peaks of the Alps, visible in dim perspective amidst the eternal snows, at the very instant we stand on their debris. The most notable of these masses, called the *Pierre à Bot* (or Toad Stone,) lies in a belt of wood not far from a farm house, about two miles west of Neufchatel, and near the road to Vallengin and La-Chaux-de-Fonds. The first height above the lake being gained, (vine clad on its lower slopes,) we come rather abruptly upon a small cultivated terrace, where the farm house just mentioned is situated. This hollow in the hill permits some accumulation in the soil, which elsewhere is very thin and bare. Immediately behind, however, the hill again rises, covered with thick wood, in every part of which not a few, but hundreds and thousands of travelled blocks may be found. Some small and rounded, but a vast number exceeding a cubic yard in contents, and perfectly angular, or at least with only the corners and edges slightly worn, but without any appearance whatever of considerable attrition, or of any violence having been used in their transport. Indeed such violence would be quite inconsistent with their appearance and present position.

"The dimensions of the *Pierre à Bot* are 50 feet long, 20 wide, and 40 high, containing 40,000 cubic feet (French.) It forms a stupendous monument of power. It is impossible to look at it without emotion, after surveying the distance which separates it from its birth place. No wonder that Geologists have vied with one another in attempting to account for so extensive and surprising a phenomenon."*

* Professor J. D. Forbes' Travels through the Alps, page 49.