

INTRODUCTORY INFORMATION.

§ 1. PASSPORTS.

A TRAVELLER cannot reach Switzerland without a passport from a minister of one or other of the states of Europe; and, though it is seldom called for while he is in the country, yet he must be prepared to produce it whenever it is required. At the gates of Geneva, and perhaps in one or two other capitals of the cantons, passports are demanded on entering. Persons proceeding from Switzerland to the Austrian states, or Bavaria, must have the signature of the ministers of those countries attached to their passports; or they will not be allowed to pass across the frontier. The ministers accredited to the Swiss Confederation reside at Bern, or at least have their passport-offices there; even when they themselves follow the Diet either to Zurich or Lucerne. Strangers, therefore, should take care to secure their *visé* as they pass through Bern. See Route 24, p. 67, for further particulars.

In going from Geneva to Chamouny, the signature of the Sardinian Consul is made a *sine quâ non*, in order to secure to that official a fee of four francs.

§ 2. MONEY.

There is hardly a country in Europe which has so complicated a Currency as Switzerland; almost every canton has a Coinage of its own, and those coins that are current in one canton will not pass in the next. Let the traveller, therefore, be cautious how he overloads himself with more small change than he is sure of requiring.

Detailed tables of Swiss coins are given below, but it is scarcely worth the traveller's while to perplex himself with their intricacies; since he will find French Napoleons and francs current nearly all over Switzerland. They are indeed, on the whole, the best coins he can take with him; and, except in some very remote situations, on the east side of the country, in the cantons of St. Gall, Appenzell, and Grisons, which border on Germany, and where Bavarian florins (= 20 pence) and kreutzers are in common circulation, the innkeepers always make out their bills in Fr. francs, or will do so if required.

It is necessary, however, to prevent being cheated, that the traveller should know the value of one or two Swiss coins.

1 Swiss franc, containing 10 batz = $1\frac{1}{2}$ French franc (1 franc 48 cents.), = (nearly) 1s. 2d. English.

N.B. This distinction between the value of French and Swiss francs should be particularly attended to.

1 batz contains 10 rappen, and = $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. (nearly) English.

The Swiss coins most frequently met with are pieces of 5 batzen, or $\frac{1}{2}$ a Swiss franc; 1 batz, $\frac{1}{2}$ batz, and rappen. Pieces are also coined of 1, 2, 3, and 4 Swiss francs.

Value of some Foreign Coins in Swiss Currency.

1 French Napoleon = 14 Swiss francs.

1 " 5 franc-piece = from $33\frac{1}{2}$ to 35 batzen.