

yards, to observe the beauty of its purity and colour in the crevices, which cannot be conceived when looking down upon it, for the stones and soil are rejected to its surface, and thrown over at its edges, forming what are called the *moraines* of the glacier.

The Jardin. — Those who wish to cross the Mer de Glace, and visit the Jardin or Courtil, on the Glacier de Talèfre, should sleep at the pavilion, for, to a fatiguing day's journey, two hours and a half makes an important addition. The accommodation now offered at the pavilion enables the traveller to sleep comfortably and start early. No person should venture without a guide, and with one, a description of the course is scarcely necessary. David Coutet, is an active, intelligent man, and the best possible guide to the Jardin, as he is well acquainted with the state of the crevasses on entering upon the Mer de Glace, the chief obstacle to the traverse of the Mer. The great object of the excursion is to enter more into the heart of Mont Blanc, to penetrate into its profound valleys, and witness scenes of wilder horrors and more savage solitude; and there is no excursion from Chamouny that excites these sublime emotions more powerfully. The guide should be provisioned for this excursion, and in fact any other where the visitors are not numerous enough to insure an establishment for refreshment. Bread and cold meat, and wine, should be taken by the guide to the Jardin, the Mont Breven, the Chapeau, and such other places as the guide may advise.

The course taken, is to follow the S. W. side of the Mer de Glace, and reach the base of the Aiguille de Charmoz, where, from there being fewer crevices, the Mer de Glace can be crossed with greater safety. Several ridges of *moraines*, called *arrêtes*, which lie in the direction of the glacier, are crossed, and that part of the glacier called Lechaud is ascended a

little, to attain the lower extremity of that of Talèfre, which here presents an awful appearance, from the disruption of the ice, and the vast and wild masses and pyramids into which the glacier has broken, from its abrupt descent into the glacier of Lechaud. These hang in *terrorem* over the traveller who dares to approach them.

To pass these glaciers it is necessary to climb the rocks of the Couvertele, the base of the Aiguille du Talèfre. This, which is difficult from its excessive steepness, is not dangerous. A part of the path lies in a little gully in the rock, to climb over which, in some places, the hands are required, as well as the feet. This part of the passage is called the Egralets. Above it, where the path is less steep, and where there is some herbage, the traveller reaches the bed or level of the Glacier du Talèfre, which leads to an oasis in this desert — an island in the ice — a rock which is covered with a beautiful herbage, and enamelled, in August, with flowers — this is the Jardin of this palace of nature, and nothing can exceed the beauty of such a spot, amidst the overwhelming sublimity of the surrounding objects, the Aiguilles of Charmoz, Bletière, and the Géant, and the enormous glaciers of Tacul; all vindicate the truth of the poet's glorious description, —

“Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains;
They crown'd him long ago,
On a throne of rocks, in a robe of clouds,
With a diadem of snow.”

In returning from the Jardin it is not necessary to descend by the Egralets; a steep path leads down from the glacier of Talèfre to the glacier of Lechaud, and then by the path to the base of the Charmoz, to Montanvert, and Chamouny.

It requires 3½ hours to go from the Pavilion to the Jardin, and 7 or 8 to return from the Jardin to Chamouny; for though the descent may be made quicker, the traveller is more fatigued, and, allowing for rest