

and enjoyment, the journey is one of 16 hours, from and to Chamouny; the gain of 3, therefore, by starting from the Montanvert, will obviously lessen its fatigue. "The excursion to the Jardin," says Professor Forbes, "is one of the grandest in the whole range of the Alps, and, owing to the purity of the atmosphere, is not so fatiguing as is generally supposed. If the traveller be not pressed for time, and have a taste for such sublime scenes, he may, by sleeping a second time at the Pavilion, enjoy these in a high degree, by exploring, after a descent from the Jardin, the upper part of the Mer de Glace and the Glacier de l'Echaud: for this there will be time enough, and even to make collections of plants and minerals, which are highly interesting; the former at the Egralets and on the Jardin, and the latter on the Moraines of the Glacier of Talafre and on the eastern side of the Mer de Glace.

"The next morning, therefore, instead of returning by the beaten road to Chamouny, the traveller may, under the guidance of David Couttet, explore the bases of the Aiguilles between the Mer de Glace and Mont Blanc, and crossing with caution the Glacier du Pelerin, descending from the Aiguille du Midi, he will find himself on the brink of a precipice immediately overlooking the Glacier du Bossons, not far from the point where it is crossed, opposite the Grands Mulets, in the ascent of Mont Blanc; and here he will have a far better idea, than from any other point, of the real nature of the difficulties to be encountered, and the magnificence of the scenes to be enjoyed, in that daring excursion. A very steep but beautiful descent, chiefly over herbage, and parallel to the course of the Glacier du Bossons, will lead him to the valley of Chamouny, two miles below the village; and in passing he may visit two remarkable cascades, formed by the

water which descends from the Glacier du Pelerin, which are little visited, though near the great road through the valley. In one of these the water, descending with prodigious velocity through a natural and almost vertical conduit in the rock, meets with an obstacle which, giving it a sudden check, causes it to gush forward and upward, thus forming a parabolic arch of singular beauty, especially at the season, or under circumstances of abundant water. A short day only is necessary for this interesting excursion."

*The Flegère.* — This point of view of Mont Blanc is that which is most generally attained by ladies, because it may be accomplished on mules the whole way, and it is one of the finest in the valley. It was from the Croix de la Flegère that Mr. Burford took his panoramic view of Mont Blanc, lately exhibited in Leicester Square. The point attained lies exactly opposite the Glacier du Bois, or Mer de Glace; and from no point are the remarkable group of Aiguilles, which surround the Aiguille Verte, so finely seen. The Montanvert is visited for the sake of its proximity to the Mer de Glace; the Flegère, to enjoy a view of Mont Blanc with its attendant objects. From Chamouny to the Flegère is an excursion which requires only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The road that leads to it lies up the valley, to the hamlet of *les Près*, where it turns off to the left towards the Aiguille de Chalanods, one of the Aiguilles Rouges, where a steep path commences, which leads up to the pasturage of Pra de Viola. Thence a good hour is required to attain the Croix de Flegère, which commands a view of the whole range, from the Col de Balme to the furthest glacier that, below Chamouny, streams into the valley, which lies in a great part of its extent in delicious repose beneath the observer.

Within two minutes' walk of the Cross is the *Châlet* of Flegère, which affords shelter in unfavourable wea-