

and, is a fine example; the lake, the precipitous sides of the jagged mountains, and the waterfall, will not fail to excite a state of mind often to be recalled with enthusiasm.

Mr. Bakewell has described a very remarkable appearance presented by a granitic spire in the valley of Chamouny, which will give an idea of the mountainous country that usually attends the appearance of this rock. "The most striking object in the valley of Chamouny," says Mr. Bakewell, "next to the glaciers, is the Aiguille de Dru, a taper spire of granite, which shoots up to the height of eleven thousand feet above the level of the sea, and is apparently detached from all the surrounding mountains. The upper part, or spire, rises nearly to a point, in one solid shaft, more than four thousand feet; it is utterly inaccessible; its sides are rounded, and are said to have a polish or glazing like that which is sometimes seen on granite rocks exposed to the action of the sea. By what means it has been shaped into its present form, is difficult to conceive. When approaching the Glacier de Bois, it is impossible to view without astonishment this isolated pinnacle of granite, shooting up into the sky to such an amazing height."

But although granite is found in some of the highest chains of mountains, as the Himalaya and the Alps, yet it sometimes occupies comparatively level countries. A skilful geologist may generally detect the presence of this rock by the singular but almost indescribable diversity of outline it gives to a district. At one time we find it constituting a ridge of mountains, or a single peak, and in others it barely makes its appearance at the surface, as though the force which ejected it had been just counterbalanced by the resisting force of the rocks with which it was covered.

TRAP-ROCKS.

A number of rocks having a resemblance to one another in mineralogical characters, have been classed together under the general term *trap*, from the Swedish word *trappa*, a stair, because of the stair-like appearance they often present. The individual kinds of this class of rocks greatly differ in appearance the one from the other, and are designated by different names: thus we have basalt, greenstone, clinkstone, and others. They are supposed to have been formed, like granite, by the agency of fire, and are not only found intermixed with