

nature and appearance of glaciers ; they commence at the margin of the sea, where they frequently constitute a considerable precipice, and extend along the valley, which commonly rises with a gentle slope, until they are either terminated by the brow of the mountain in the back-ground, or interrupted by a precipitous summit. Besides these icebergs, there are some equally large near the northwest angle of Spitzbergen, in King's Bay, and in Cross Bay, and some of much greater magnitude near Point Look-out, besides many others of various sizes in the large sounds on the western side, and along the northern and eastern shores of this remarkable country."

The Seven Icebergs, according to Mr. Scoresby, are each on an average about a mile in length, and two hundred feet in height above the level of the ocean ; and there is one to the northward of Horn Sound eleven miles in length, and four hundred and two feet high. These vast masses of ice are, during stormy weather, attacked by the waves, which gradually precipitate large fragments into the sea. The ice is everywhere traversed by deep fissures, from a few inches to several feet wide, and so deep, that, in looking into them, the traveller finds that the rays of light have never penetrated to the bottom. These rents are supposed by Mr. Scoresby to have been produced by the passage of streams of water over the surface of the ice ; but Dr. Latta imagines them to have been produced by expansion during the process of freezing. Suppose the iceberg, says this gentleman, to be but a few feet thick, the heat of summer will render it spongy and porous, and its surface will be hollowed in channels by the little streams that flow over it. When winter returns, and these streams of water are congealed, the walls of the cavities will be, in some degree, forced asunder, and a partial rent be formed. Into these rents water will again flow, and being solidified as in the previous instance, the rent must be increased in length, width, and depth, while the damming up and freezing of the little streams below assist the action, by elevating the mass from its bed. This process, says Dr. Latta, annually repeated, might induce the appearance now presented by the icebergs, and, being wedged in between mountains, they cannot extend laterally, and necessarily become arched or convex, impelled, as it were, by a central force in the expansion of water.

Nothing can be more beautiful than the appearance of