



FIG. 58.—THE GREAT CREVASSE OF MONT BLANC.
CATASTROPHE OF AUGUST 20TH, 1820.

Everybody was thrown down and rolled in the snow. The three guides who led the way, Pierre Carrier, Pierre Balmat, and Auguste Teiraz, were dashed headlong into the crevasse. Julien and Marie Coutet, propelled by a more violent impulse, were fortunate enough to sweep across the abyss, and fall into another crevasse, happily not so deep, and half full of snow, from which they were easily extricated. By a merciful Providence, the other guides, Dr. Hamel, and the two Englishmen, arrested their descent on the border of the gulf. They had rolled over and over from a height of 300 feet.

Julien Devoissous and Marie Coutet remained a moment without consciousness. Julien, with his head beneath him, was wounded all over with blows received against the narrow sides of the crevasse. Marie Coutet was half buried in the snow, which filled this chasm for a depth of 60 feet. Embedded up to his neck, he

was unable to make any movement, and his face wore the purple