



FIG. 80. — VALLEY OF GOLDAU, AS IT APPEARED AFTER THE LANDSLIP OF 1806.

with it the farms, and trees, and pastures. A vineyard and a large house were transported the whole distance without being in the least affected by the motion.

Chroniclers relate that the town of Dordrecht, in Holland, was formerly removed some distance from its original site, along with the ground on which it stood. After the well-authenticated events already related, the reader will have no difficulty in crediting this fact.

About 1806, after storms of rain, the strata which cover the mountain of Solatr , near Ma on, began to glide over the beds of limestone composing its inner mass; they had already travelled some hundreds of yards, and were on the point of burying the village, when the rains ceased; with them the threatening phenomenon also paused, and the avalanche was arrested in its course.

A part of Mount Go ima, situated in the old territory of Venice, was detached in the course of a single night, descending softly along the slope of the mountain to the very bottom of the valley, with all the houses built upon it, and yet not one of them was overthrown! Their inhabitants were unaware of this extraordinary locomotion, and when they awoke, were surprised to find themselves at the mountain-foot. They thought themselves the sport of a supernatural power. But an examination of the locality soon explained to them the nature of the astounding journey which they had performed in their sleep.

But such incidents are usually attended with the most deplorable consequences. It will suffice to mention, as an example, the two catastrophes which, in 1795 and 1806, overwhelmed the villages of Waeggis and Goldau respectively.

The village of Waeggis stood on the border of the Lake of Lucerne, at the foot of the Righi. In the month of July 1795, at the close of a terrible tempest, a muddy