

ice from the underlying soil, and which acts like emery-powder under the polishing-iron. Thanks to this stratum of detritus, the glacier levels the asperities of the rocks, rounds and polishes them as if they had passed under the hand of the marble-cutter. At the same time the fragments of hard stones which the ice and mud drift along engrave more or less superficial streaks, and even profound furrows, on the rock over which the immense slow-moving roller glides.

The pebbles, blocks, and fragments of stone, found embedded beneath the glacier, and forming there interior moraines, are pressed,



FIG. 107.—MONTE ROSA AND ITS GLACIERS, WITH THE MEDIAL MORAINE.
(From a photograph by Ferrier.)

trituated, and crushed by its weight and progressive movement : are ground down into sand, silt, and mud. Those which escape destruction are, at all events, striated, and worn superficially. M. Agassiz, therefore, calls them *striated pebbles*, whose presence invariably points out the passage of an ancient glacier in the valley wherein they are discovered. For water, when it carries down pebbles, does not scratch, but, on the contrary, rounds and polishes them.

The striations observed on stones which have been dragged under the glacier seem to have been produced by fragments of quartz