

scene, once beheld, never to be forgotten. All its concomitants are calculated to impress the mind: the intense darkness, like that of night, which fills up, so to speak, the inner vault—the huge boulders and crags, flung down from the mountains above, which oppose unsuccessfully the forward march of the torrent—the iris-like gleams and flashes which play about those parts of the ice affected by the

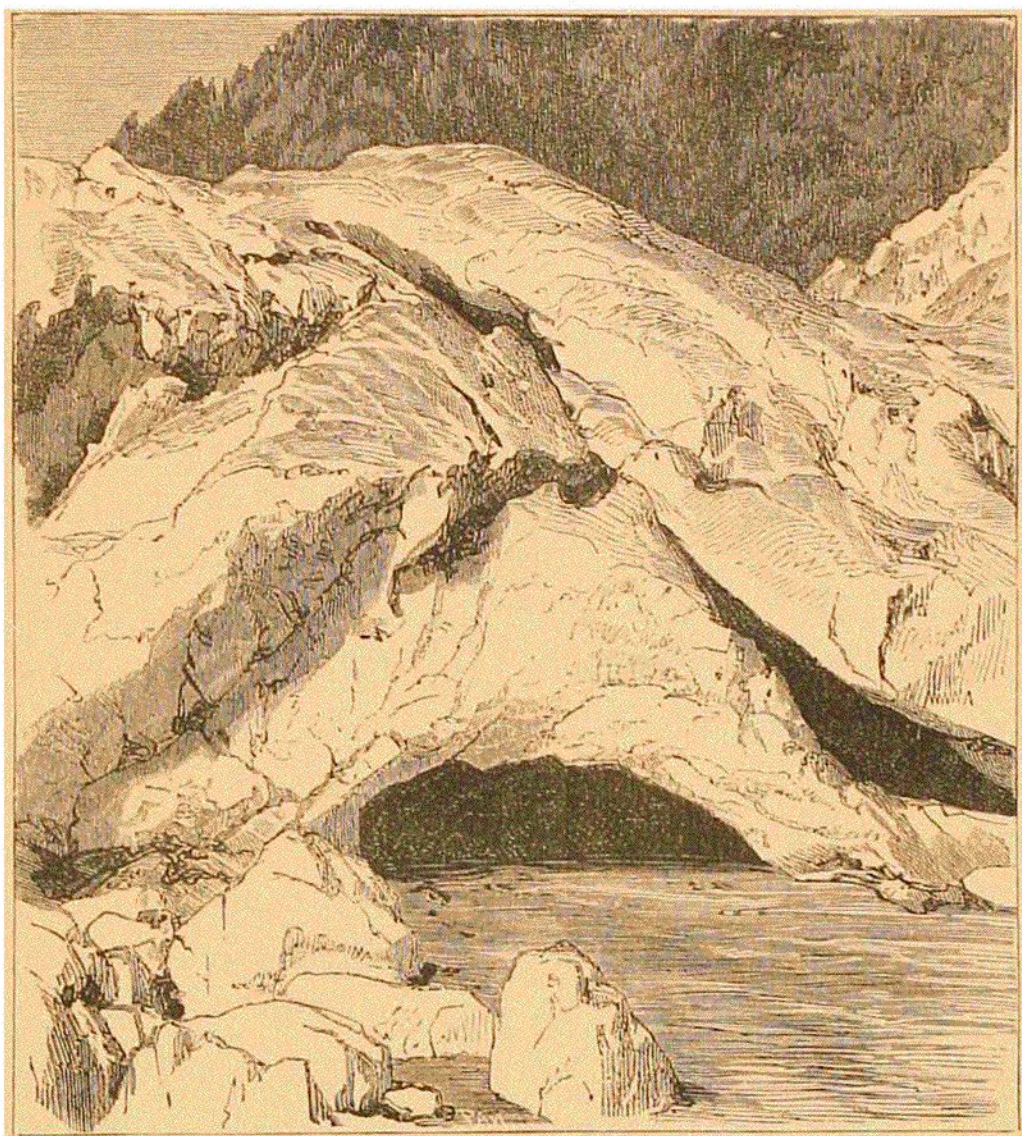


FIG. 109.—SOURCE OF THE ARVEIRON. (*From a photograph by Ferrier.*)

light—and the sombre masses of pine-wood which stretch like a rampart on either hand.

As already hinted, the yearly fall of blocks of ice from the cavern-roof, produced by the gathering heats of the interior, are continually modifying its configuration, and frequently bar the egress of the subterranean streams, which thereupon accumulate in a mass of waters,