

and between one and two miles in breadth. About the centre it divides into two branches, the Lauter Aar and the Finster Aar; the two being separated, like the double current of a stream, by a rocky promontory called the *Abschwang*, which is the base of a huge ridge, the Mettenberg, that rises far above Grindelwald into a summit of sublime elevation. We may also name the glaciers of the Grindelwald, which are rendered unusually picturesque by their contiguity to the green pastures and fir groves of the rich Grindelwald valley. In the descent of these two vast streams of ice into the luxuriance of a thriving pastoral and agricultural district, there is something peculiarly impressive. They issue from the bosom of the Eiger ("the giant") and Wetter-horn ("the tempest-peak"), and are divided into two channels by the lofty Mettenberg (or "middle mountain").

Even Lord Macaulay's school-boy knows by name the famous MER DE GLACE, or *Eis-see*, of the Chamounix valley, whose colossal bed is formed by the union of the *Glacier du Géant* (S.W.), the *Glacier de Lechaud* (S.), and the *Glacier du Talèfre* (S.E.) We know that words, when wielded by a master-spirit, are powerful to move the hearts and agitate the minds of men; to realize the highest dreams of the poet's fancy and embody the airiest creations of the romancist's art; but, assuredly, no words can convey even the feeblest idea of the wonders of this vast frozen sea—girdled, as it is, by a giant range of frozen mountains—lit up by a myriad fantastic and ever-shifting rainbow-hues, and rendered awful by its intense solitude and silence!

"All that expands the spirit, yet appalls,
Gather around;"

and nowhere does man feel more terribly dwarfed and humbled by a sublimity which he is wholly unable to comprehend!

The most striking portion of the Mer de Glace is the *Glacier de Talèfre*, where a solitary rock, about seven acres in extent, and nowhere less than 9000 feet above the sea, is clothed with beautiful herbage, and, in August, dressed out in flowers—an oasis of poetry