

and the said waters, falling on the said mountains, through chinks and crevices, constantly descend without encountering any impediment, until they have found some place composed of stones or rocks, lying close together, and thoroughly compact; and then they repose upon this bottom, and having discovered some channel or duct, they issue in fountains, or in brooks and rivers, according to the dimensions of the openings and the reservoirs."

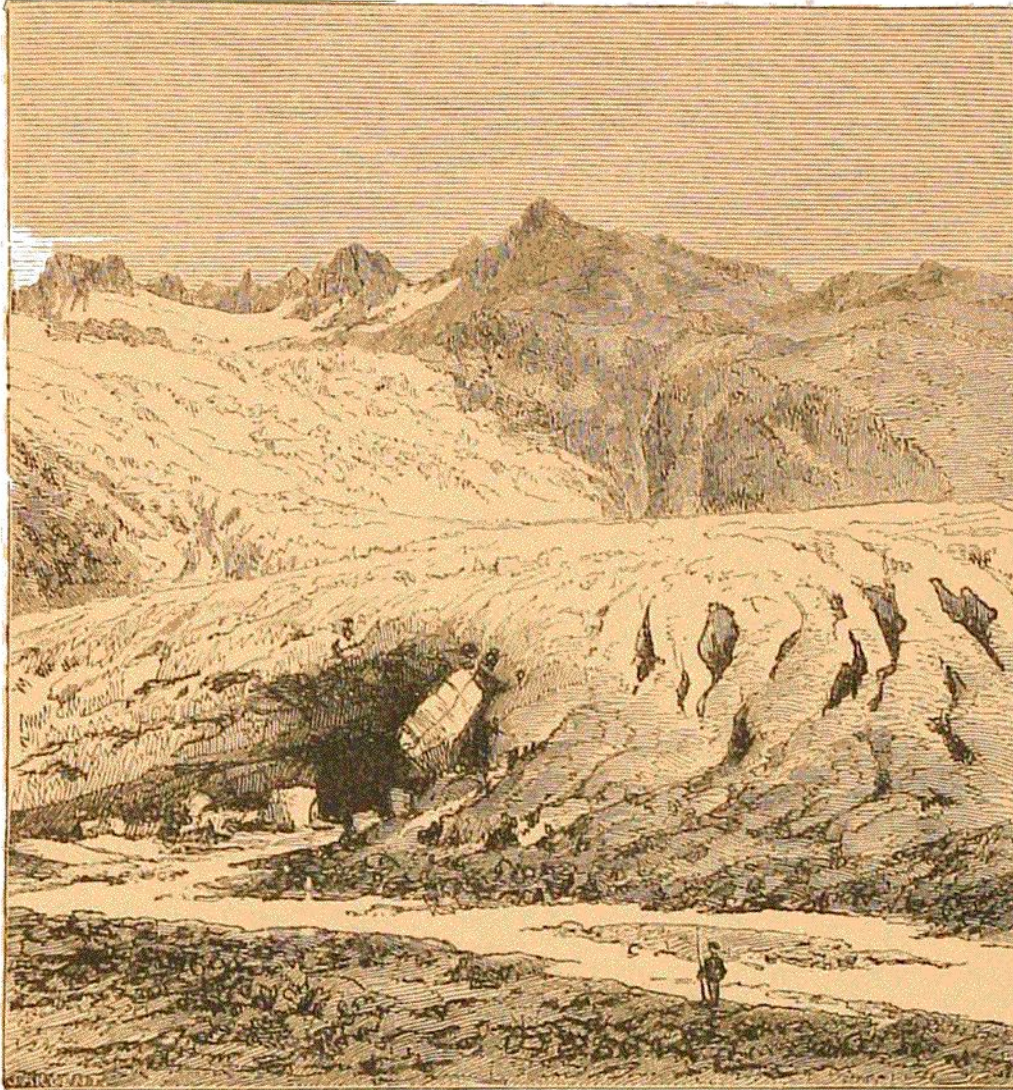


FIG. 163.—SOURCE OF THE RHONE. (*From a Photograph by Ferrier.*)

The subterranean waters which re-appear in the light of day by following the strata superimposed upon one another, are due, as we have said at the commencement of this chapter, to the condensation of the vapours upon the mountains, to the rains, and the melted snows. Sometimes a river emerges directly from beneath a glacier, as is the case, for instance, with the Arveiron, whose source is situ-