

Parent of rivers, which flow gushingly,
 With many windings, through the vale :—Look back !
 Lo ! where it comes like an eternity,
 As if to sweep down all things in its track,
 Charming the eye with dread,—a matchless cataract !”

Not to be forgotten in this connection are the *Falls of Tivoli*, near Rome, which, like those of Terni, are artificial in character, being formed by the direction of the waters of the river Anio over a precipice of 320 feet. The works by which this noble cascade was created owe their existence to the genius of Folchi, the Roman engineer, and the liberal energy of Pope Gregory XVI.]

Among the Swiss waterfalls, the first place must be given to that of the Staubbach, or “torrent of dust,” in the valley of the Lauterbrunnen.

[This is one of the loftiest falls in Europe, measuring between 800 and 900 feet in height. From this cause, and from the inconsiderable volume of water composing it, the cascade does not descend in an unbroken sheet of dazzling silver, but is broken up by the wind into clouds of dust-like spray long before it reaches the bottom. Hence it is wanting in magnificence, and in that solemn grandeur which characterizes many waterfalls of far inferior elevation, but it has its own peculiar beauties, and when seen in the sunlight, and under the influence of a fresh breeze, assumes a singularly picturesque and impressive aspect.

The torrent is in shape, says Byron,*

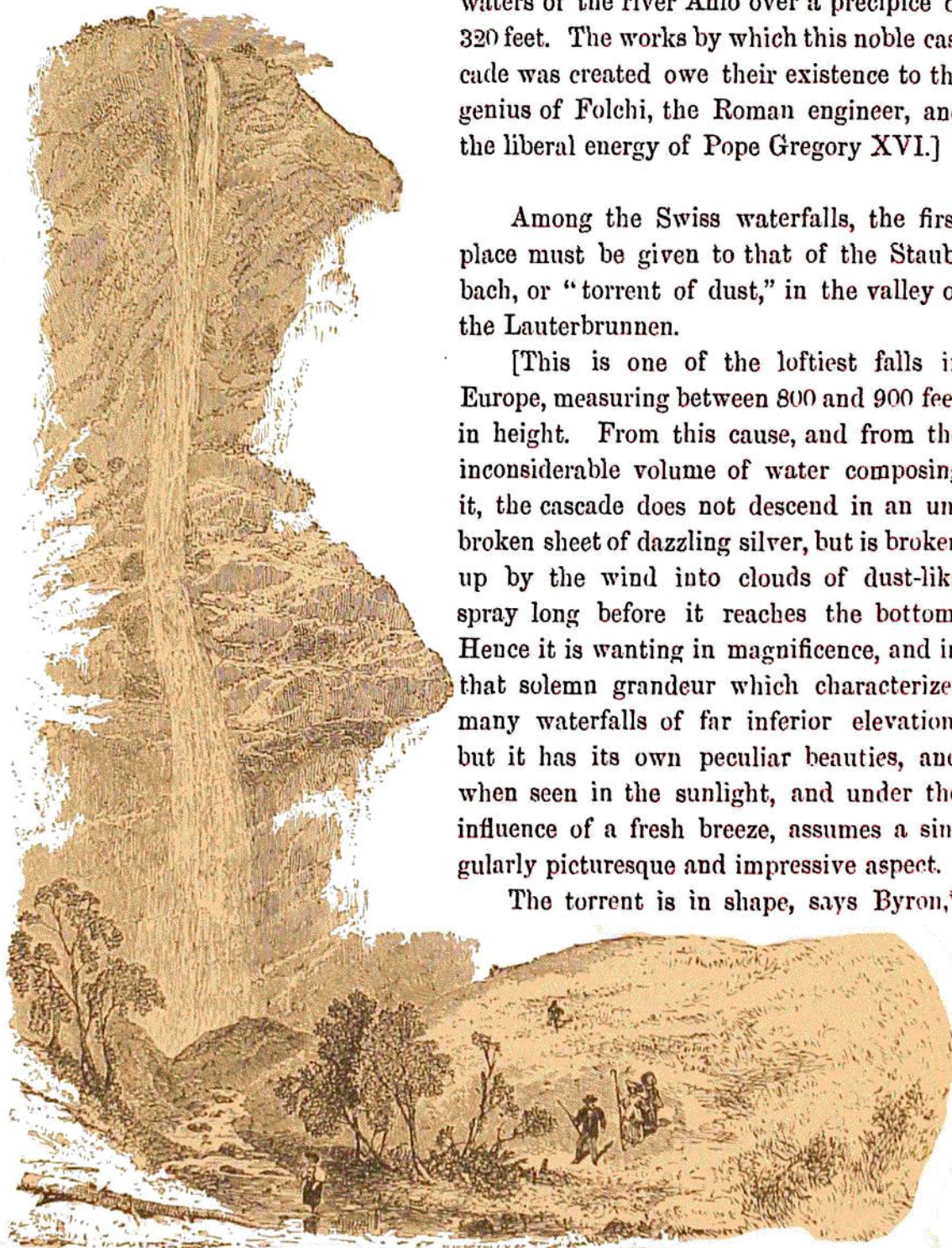


FIG. 178.—THE STAUBBACH (SWITZERLAND).

[* Byron, “Life and Letters,” edited by Thomas Moore.]