

defile of the Balkan, historically celebrated as the *Iron Gates*.\* In its course it collects the tribute of sixty streams, and drains an area of 300,000 square miles.

The Carpathian Mountains enclose in their recesses the springs of the *Vistula*, which waters the broad Sarmatian plain, and renders itself to the Baltic Sea, after traversing a very marshy country. The

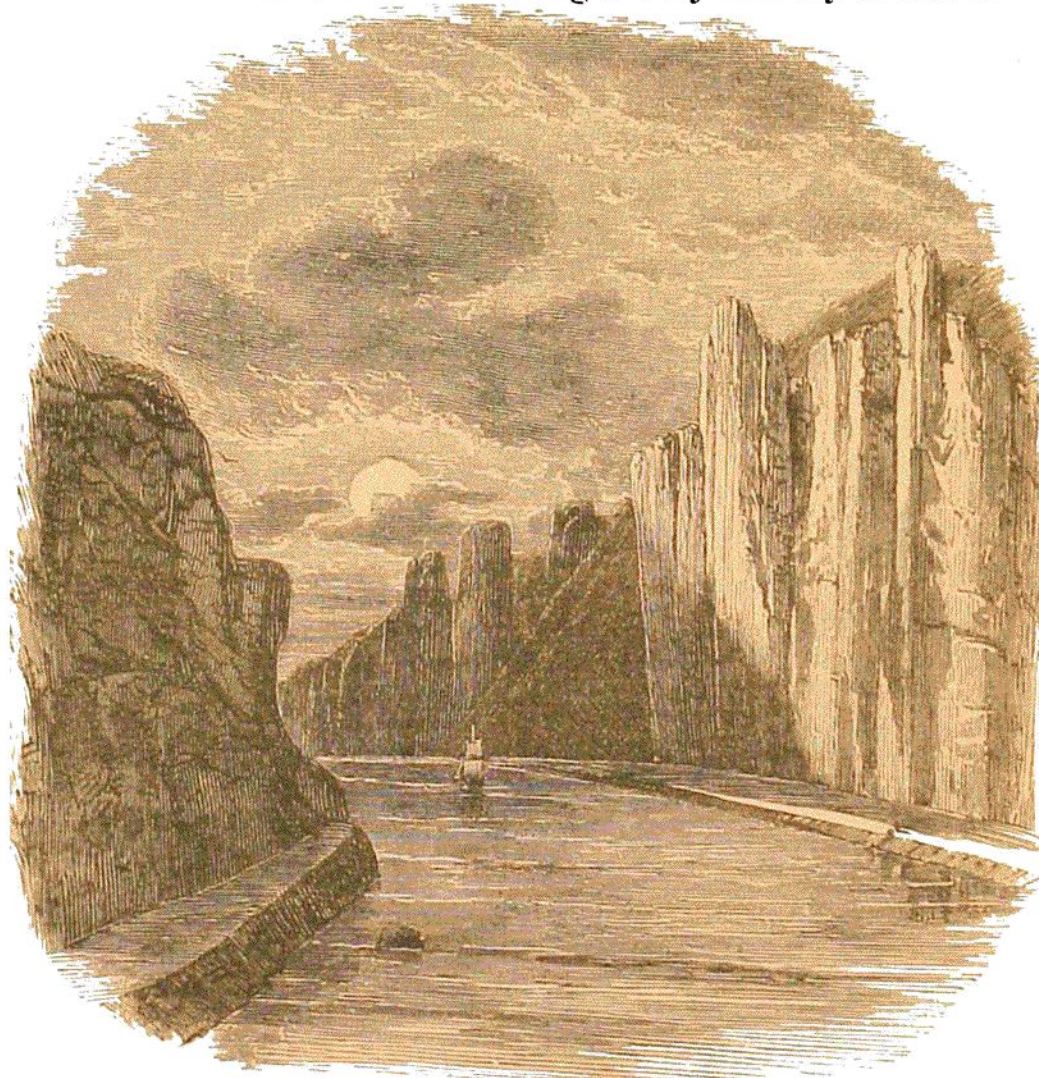


FIG. 192.—IRON GATES OF THE DANUBE.

river Bug, one of its principal affluents, comes from the swamps of Pripet, where also rises the Pripet river, a tributary of the Dnieper. It may therefore be said that the basins of the Vistula and the *Dnieper* touch one another and intermingle in this immense morass, without any conspicuous elevation of the soil to mark the line of partition of their waters. It is possible, therefore, through the canals

\* [According to Adelung, the word *Danube* means "the lower water." The word *Dan* is found in the names of many rivers—as *Rho-dan-us*.]