

time from the principal mass : they fall into the sea, sometimes with a formidable detonation. These icy Anakim encumber the shores, or are carried out to sea by the currents : in the latter case they constitute either ice-fields or icebergs.

Dr. Scoresby maintains that the icebergs which obstruct the navigation of Baffin's Bay do but partially originate in the congelation of the sea ; that the majority are formed on the shore, in regions protected from winds and currents by the accumulation of the snows

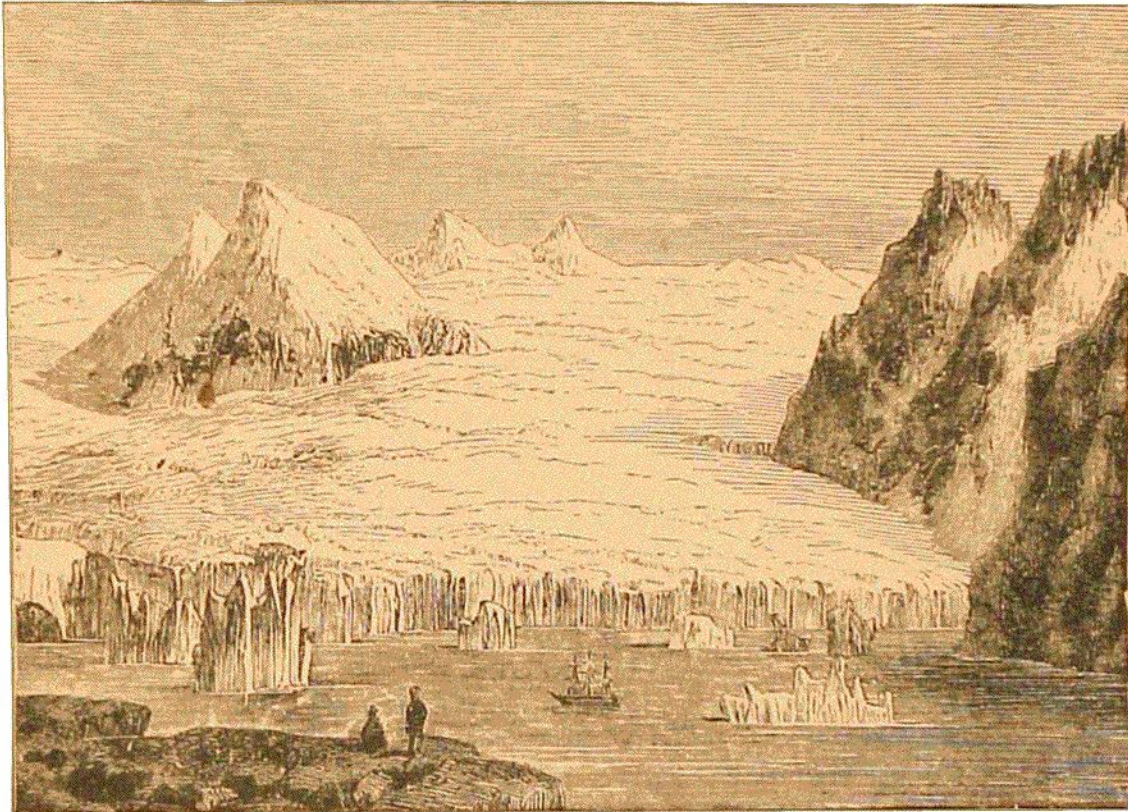


FIG. 229.—ENGLISH BAY, SPITZBERGEN.

of many years, alternately thawed and re-frozen. Of late years this observation has been more universally applied ; and it has even been asserted that all icebergs are offshoots of the glaciers which bristle along the polar coast. There is a certain amount of exaggeration in this idea ; and it is more scientific to admit that the floating ice of the Arctic seas originates both in the break-up of the great glaciers and the congelation of the dreary waters.

In the vicinity of Spitzbergen icebergs are few, and not of any considerable dimensions ; but in Davis's Straits some have been seen