

measuring 3200 yards in length by 500 yards in breadth, their frosty summits towering more than 160 feet above the surface of the water; whence it follows that *beneath* the surface they are submerged upwards of 650 feet, for the proportion between the exposed and the submerged parts is as 1 to 4.

These giants of ice, incessantly corroded and gnawed by the waves that wash them, offer the most varied and fantastic outlines. Sometimes the spectator thinks he sees a floating island, indented

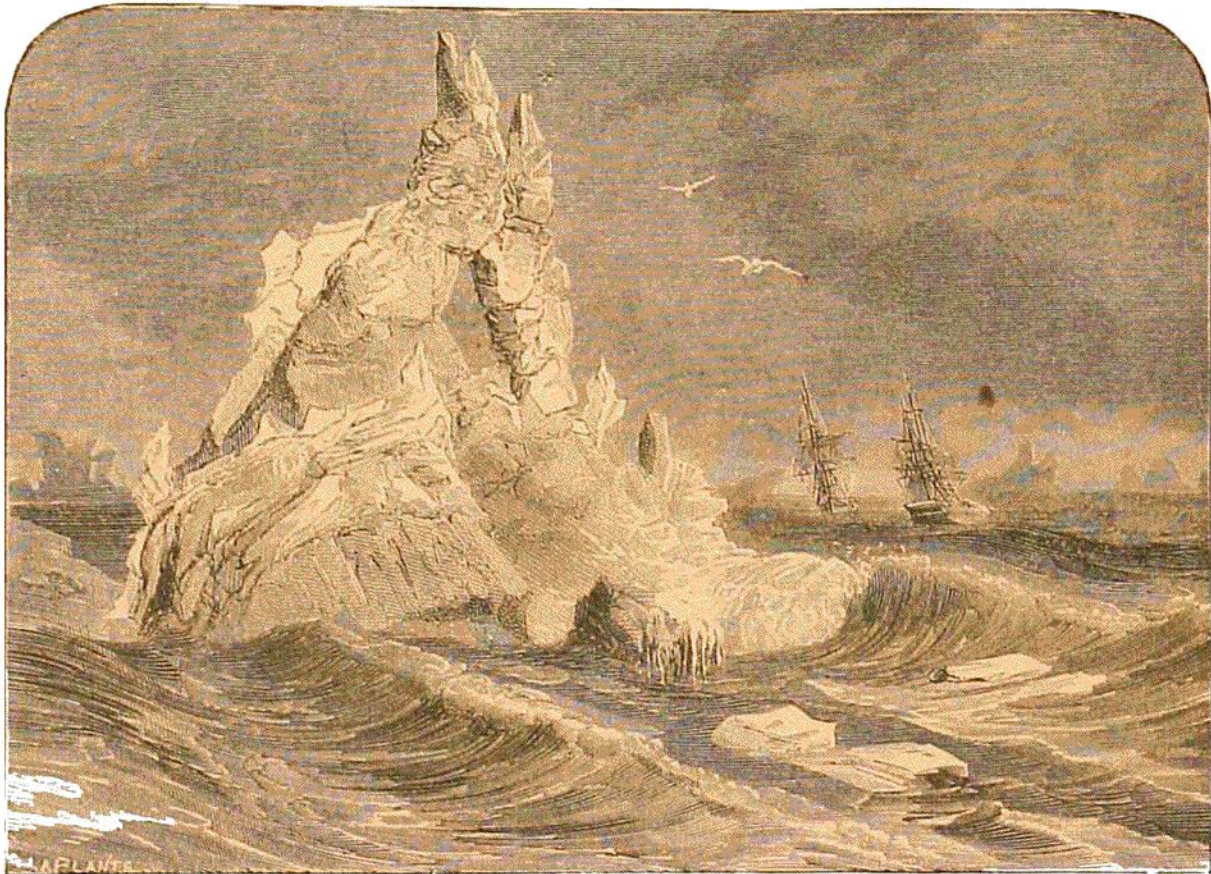


FIG. 230. — AN ICE-MOUNTAIN.

with bays and beset with promontories; sometimes a precipitous and inaccessible rampart, surmounted by crenelated towers, which overhang the abyss, and threaten to crush any unwary intruder; and sometimes tapering and graceful pyramids or spires, bright rounded cones, or smooth, circular plateaux.

We represent in the subjoined illustration a floating mountain. It was tunnelled by a long and lofty gallery, like a crystal arcade, which the sailors amused themselves by traversing.

It is easy to determine the age of these giants from the degree of erosion and degradation they have undergone. Detached, or split asunder after awhile, they