de Léchaud (La-shó), fed by the snow-fields of the Grandes Jorasses. On the east, the Léchaud is reinforced by the broad triangular Glacier de Talèfre (Tah-lefr'), in the midst of which, at an elevation of 9,143 feet, is the Jardin, an island of land-surface, walled in on all sides by lofty mountains, and adorned in August with a display of several species of Alpine flowers.

Beyond the Mer de Glace is the Glacier of Argentière—a fine long river of ice, almost equal to the Mer de Glace itself. The bright village of Argentière lies at its foot. At the very head of the valley of Chamonix comes down from the same direction, the Glacier du Tour. Thus six glaciers descend into the valley, and each contributes its torrent of muddy water to create and swell the Arve. This grand series of ice-rivers and the more majestic mass of the mountains, with their swelling domes and sky-piercing pinnacles, may be contemplated as a panorama from the summits which overlook the valley from the north, and put the spectator face to face before the stupendous Mont Blanc range. No person can gaze on this spectacle from the Flégère, which faces the Mer de Glace, or from the Brévent, which faces directly the Glacier des 'Bossons and Mont Blanc, without feeling a sympathy with Coleridge in his "Hymn in the Vale of Chamonix:"

> "Ye ice-falls! ye that from the mountain's brow
> Adown enormous ravines slope amain,
> Torrents, methinks, that heard a mighty voice,
> And stopped at once amid their maddened plunge!
> Motionless torrents! silent cataracts!
> Who made you glorious as the gates of heaven
> Beneath the keen full moon? Who bade the sun
> Clothe you with rainbow? Who with living flowers
> Of loveliest blue spread garlands at your feet?
> God! Let the torrents like a shout of nations
> Answer, and let the ice-plains echo, God!"

The conception of a glacier as a frozen cataract is suggestive and truthful. When, from the Montanvert, overlooking the Mer de Glace, De Saussure contemplated the sea of ice, he received an impression thus recorded: "Its surface re-