

crack opened between my feet and ran rapidly across the glacier in a straight line.”¹ On this occasion Agassiz saw three crevasses formed in an hour and a half, and heard others opening at a greater distance from him. He counted eight new fissures in a space of one hundred and twenty-five feet. The phenomenon continued throughout the evening, and recurred, though with less frequency, during the night. The cracks were narrow, the largest an inch and a half in width, and their great depth was proved by the rapidity with which they drained any standing water in their immediate vicinity. “A boring-hole,” says Agassiz, “one hundred and thirty feet deep and six inches in diameter, full of water, was completely emptied in a few minutes, showing that these narrow cracks penetrated to great depths.”

The summer's work included observations also on the comparative movement of the glacier during the day and night, on the surface waste of the mass, its reparation, on the névé and snow of the upper regions, on the meridian holes, the sun-dials of the glaciers, as they

¹ Extract from a letter of Louis Agassiz to M. Arago dated from the Hôtel des Neuchâtelois, Glacier of the Aar, August 7, 1842.