

THE HÔTEL DES NEUCHÂTELOIS, AND WHAT BECAME OF IT.

At a recent fête of the Swiss Alpine club, a despatch was received from Mr. Forel in regard to the names which he has found on the Aar glacier. Mr. Forel gave to the *Gazette de Lausanne* the following information on the subject. He recalled the scientific zeal of Agassiz and his friends in Neuchâtel, and their studies, extending from 1840 to 1846, of the glacier near Grimsel. These enthusiastic naturalists stationed themselves at the very centre of the glacier at the junction of its sources, — the Lauteraar and the Finsteraar, at the foot of the rocky promontory known as the Abschwung. They found on the middle moraine a block of micaceous schist, supported by other rocks, and forming a natural shelter, which

(engineer at Neuchâtel), 1845; Ch. Martins (professor at Montpellier);" and several illegible letters. This block also bears the inscription 'No. 2;' for in 1842, Agassiz had a number of remarkable rocks marked with numbers, the arrangement of which he intrusted to his friend Wild, the geodesist of the expedition. The block of the Hôtel was marked as No. 2. The third block is fifty-five metres lower, and bears the inscriptions, 'Solioz Auguste 1842,' 'Lieutenant Guntren,' and several words which Mr. Forel did not understand. Mr. Forel calls attention to the fact that the course traversed by the blocks since the determination of their position by Agassiz has been about fifty-five metres a year.

We add an illustration of the rock as it appeared in 1840-42, reduced from a plate in Dollfus's *Matériaux pour l'étude des glaciers*.



they completed by other dry walls of rocks. They thus possessed a rustic cabin, which they named the Hôtel des Neuchâtelais; and there they lived three seasons, illustrious in the annals of science. From 1840 to 1843 the Hôtel was the rendezvous of all interested in the theory of glaciers. But unfortunately the block began to break up. As early as 1841 there were numerous fissures; and in 1844 it was broken into two pieces; since then, the frost has divided it into a thousand pieces. It is this *débris*, still of considerable size, which Mr. Forel has found. The highest block still bears inscriptions in red lead, unfortunately most of them illegible. He could only decipher the date '1842,' written three times, and the name 'Vogt' (at present professor at Geneva). Twenty-five metres lower, toward the valley, is the stone discovered by Mr. Ritter of Leipzig, which bears the inscription in large capitals, still easily read, "Stengell (engineer, pupil of Osterwald), 1844; Ozt

THE INHABITANTS OF THE PUNJAB.

Outlines of Punjab ethnography: being extracts from the Punjab census of 1881, treating of religion, language, and caste. By DENZIL CHARLES JELF IBBETSON, of her Majesty's Bengal civil service. Calcutta, Government, 1883. 4°.

THIS is an imperial quarto of about 375 pages, made up of portions of the census report, as indicated in the title, using no less than eight enumerations of pages in combining the stereotype plates selected. There is a good table of contents, but no general index.

The Punjab has irregular boundaries; but it may be roughly indicated as that part of Hindostan north of the parallel of Delhi (near 28° latitude, and 78° longitude), and west of a line drawn north-west from that city,