

of the great gulf-stream would of course leave both countries to the climatal conditions proper to their position : it would ensure to Scotland the severe and wintry climate of Labrador, and to Norway the still severer climate of Northern Greenland. Nor, as has been shown of late by Professor Hopkins, would it require a very considerable depression of the central parts of North America to rob Northern Europe of the signal advantages of the gulf-stream. A greatly less considerable sinking of what is now the vast valley of the Mississippi, and of the lake district beyond, than that of which we have the evidence in our own country, would divert its waters into Hudson's Bay and the arctic seas beyond ; and both Great Britain and Norway would be left to the severe climatal conditions of their latitudinal position on the globe. Nor is it in the least improbable that such, during the glacial ages, was the actual state of things. North America, as certainly as our own country, gives evidence of extensive submergence during the period of the existing plants and shells.

We must add, that Professor Forbes' volume is remarkably well written, and not less rich in the picturesque and the poetic than in the severely scientific. There has been a mighty improvement in this respect in what may be termed the pure literature of science during the last century ; and at the present time some of the severest thinkers of the age take their place also among its best writers. Humboldt, the late Arago, Sir David Brewster, and Sir John Herschel, far excel, in the purely artistic department of authorship, most of our mere *litterateurs*. We have exhausted our space ; but, referring our reader to Professor Forbes' interesting volume for his more scientific facts and observations, we must be permitted to show by the following extract how graphically he describes :—

“ We are at the head of the Narædal, one of those singular clefts common in Norway, bounded on either side by cliffs usually perpendicular,