

(1) Glaciers of the first order (valley-glaciers) come down well below the snow, and extend into the valleys. In high latitudes they reach the sea. The Humboldt Glacier in North Greenland presents a wall of ice 60 miles long and rising 300 feet above the sea, which washes the base of the cliff. The spiry peaks and sharp crests of the Alps rise through the snow, which they thus isolate into distinct



Fig. 144.—Snow-Fields and Glaciers of Mont Blanc, seen from the top of Mount Brévent.

basins (Firmulden), averaging perhaps two square miles in area, whence glaciers proceed. The number of glaciers among the Alps has been estimated at 2000, covering a total area of from 3000 to 4000 square kilometres (Figs. 144, 145). They average perhaps from 3 to 5 miles in length. The Great Aletsch Glacier is nearly 10 (or, including the snow-field, nearly 15) miles long, with a mean breadth of 5900 feet, and descending to 4439 feet above the sea. The thick-