

is crevassed, and when it comes to the edge of the fjord, slices from time to time slip off into the water, where they form fleets of miniature icebergs, with which the surface of the fjord (*f* in Fig. 148) is covered.

Great destruction is sometimes caused by the breaking off of the end of glaciers which terminate on steep ground. The sudden dislocation of the ice and its reduction to fragments, and even to powder, causes a considerable proportion of it to melt. A mingled mass of ice and water is thus discharged, which, meeting with loose moraine stuff, may



Fig. 147.—View of recemented Glacier, Jokuls Fjord, Arctic Norway.

speedily become a moving debacle of mud. Such, according to M. Forel, was the origin of the destructive avalanche which on 12th July, 1892, swept away some thirty houses and killed about 150 people, in the valley of Montjoie, which joins that of the Arve, not far below Chamouni.⁹⁸⁴

Another incidental effect of the movement of glaciers is to be seen when the ice, barring the mouth of a tributary valley, dams back the streams flowing therein, and causes

⁹⁸⁴ Comptes Rend. cxv. 1892, p. 193. Other writers assign the bursting of a glacier-lake as the cause.