

which lies about two miles west of Neufchâtel, measures 50 (French) feet in length by 20 in width, and 40 in height. It is estimated to contain 40,000 cubic feet, and to weigh about 3000 tons.²³⁶ The celebrated "blocks of Monthey" consist of huge masses of granite, disposed in a belt, which extends for miles along the mountain slopes on the left

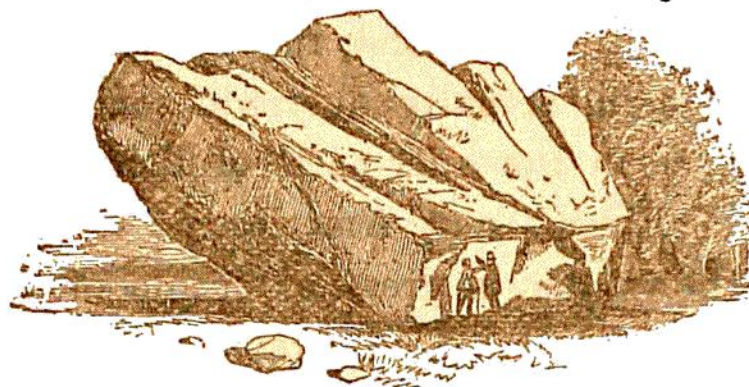


Fig. 151.—Pierre à Bot—a granitic block from the Mont Blanc range, stranded above Neufchatel (J. D. Forbes).

bank of the Rhone, near its union with the Lake of Geneva. On the southern side of the Alps, similar evidence of the transport of blocks from the central mountains is to be found. On the flanks of the limestone heights on the further side of the Lake of Como, blocks of granite, gneiss, and other crystalline rocks lie scattered about in hundreds (Fig. 152).

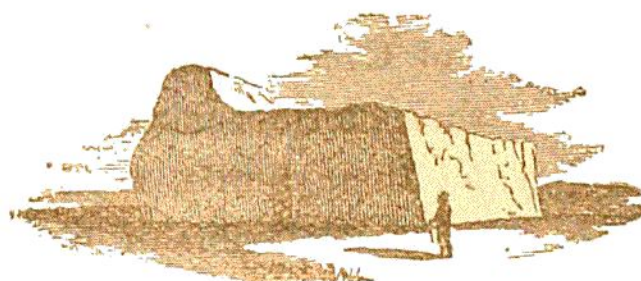


Fig. 152.—Angular erratic block on the north side of the Alpi di Pravolta, Lake of Como (B.).

Before the numerous facts had been collected and understood which prove a former great augmentation in the size of the Alpine glaciers, it was believed by many geologists that the erratics stranded along the flanks of the Jura mountains had been transported on floating ice, and that Central Europe was then in great part submerged beneath an icy

²³⁶ Forbes, "Travels in the Alps," p. 49.