

## LESSON LXXXIII.

## THE SNOW SLIP IN THE ALPS.

in-dus-tri-ous	ma-gis-trate	suf-fi-ci-ent
im-pass-a-ble	skel-e-ton	where-with
ir-re-sist-i-ble	in-ter-ro-ga-ting	ex-pir-ed
pro-dig-i-ous	a-gon-i-zing	tor-rent

The country where the accident which I am about to relate happened, is situated towards the south of Europe, full of rocks and mountains, so excessively high, that the snow never melts upon their tops, even in summer. The valleys between these mountains are inhabited by a brave and industrious people; the sides of them also are cultivated, but at the tops, the ice and snow continually increase.

During a great part of the winter, the weather is intensely cold, and the inhabitants confine themselves within their houses, which they make very comfortable.

Almost all the roads are then impassable, and snow and ice afford the only prospect. But when the year begins to get warmer, the snow is frequently thawed on the sides of the mountains, and also undermined and loosened by the water-springs which frequently pour down with irresistible fury. Hence, it sometimes happens, that such prodigious masses of snow fall down, as are sufficient to bury cattle, and houses, and even villages beneath them.