HERE AND THERE AMONG THE ALPS

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Here and There among the Alps by Frederica Plunket

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FREDERICA PLUNKET

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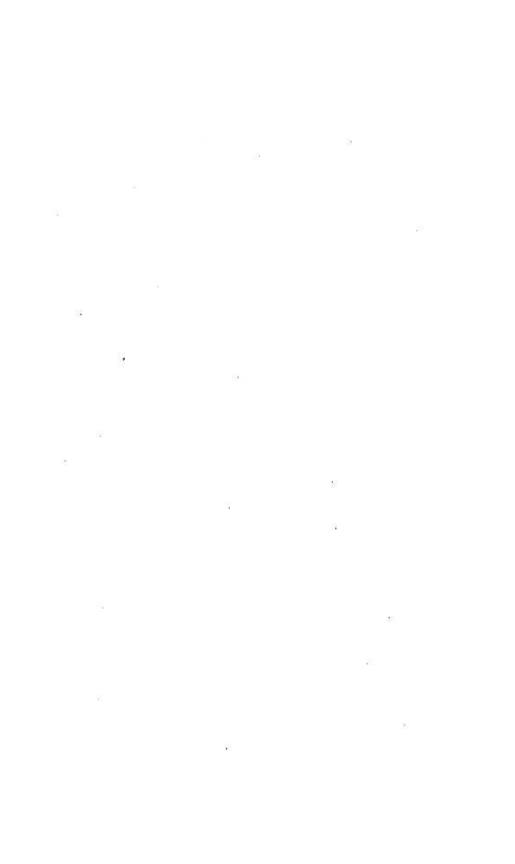
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PREFACE.

SWITZERLAND, with its beautiful mountain scenery, is now so well known to the great majority of travellers, that an endeavour to give the charm of novelty to a description of its familiar views would be vain. In offering the following pages to the public, the authoress is actuated, not so much by the motive to describe her own especial excursions, as by the wish to persuade other ladies to depart more than is their usual habit from the ordinary routine of a Swiss summer tour; to urge them no longer to pause on the threshold of the Alpine world, but to pass its snow-marked boundaries, and to see and admire for themselves those wonders of nature which many of them are content to gaze on from a distance, thus losing half their beauty.

Should any of the readers of this book be induced by its perusal to extend their mountain walks, and thereby to increase the measure of their own enjoyment, the writer will have attained her object, and will feel pleasure in the thought that she has contributed, be it ever so slightly, towards their happiness.



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AMONG THE ALPS.

INTRODUCTION.

In these days of Alpine adventure, when so many of our countrymen, braving the dangers and hardships of the higher regions, ascend one mountain after another, till scarce a European peak remains untrodden by British feet, the literature of the Alps has attained a degree of importance unheard of, or unthought of some twenty years ago. Several of the foremost heroes in the great mountaineering army, returning from the scenes of their victories, exchange the ice-axe for the pen, and fighting their hard battles once again, carry us, who read their books, along with them in the thrilling interest of the narrative, till we almost feel as if we ourselves had done the daring deeds described; as if we too had scaled the Weisshorn's dangerous rocks, had forced our way up