

The route varies little in character as it advances to Modane; but beyond this town it rises high above the bed of the Arc, skirts the mountain of Bramante, and continues beneath a dense forest of pines, at a great elevation above the river, which divides the road from the Fort of Lessillon. There is a savage character in this scene. It is barren, deep, and extensive on the one side, and there is a dark forest on the other; the road is terraced over a gulf of frightful depth; and on the opposite brink, overhanging the ravine, the fort rises in a formidable succession of ramparts, which command the passage.\* some defensive works are also constructed on the road-side. A little beyond, the fort communicates with the highroad by a bridge thrown across the gulf, at an alarming height above the torrent.

The country beyond Bramante, as the traveller approaches the Cenis, becomes more sterile. The stunted corn scarcely repays the labour of its cultivation. At Termignon, the straight valley, through which the river Aysse descends from its source in the Vanoise, is abruptly left, and the road continues, by a zig-zag ascent on the right of the Arc, through a glen which extends from Termignon to Lanslebourg, where the traveller soon arrives; and after passing through its dirty, narrow streets, reaches an excellent inn (the Hotel Royal), at the foot of the passage of the mountain.

The inhabitants of Lanslebourg from time immemorial, were innkeepers, muleteers, and porters; whose entire occupation it was to convey passengers and merchandise across the Mont Cenis. These were regulated by a syndic appointed by the government, but their occupation is now gone; the fine new road renders their services unnecessary, and a few years will either find them fresh employment, or proportion their numbers to the demand for their services. They are at present occasionally employed as cantonniers, to assist those who are regularly appointed by the government of Sardinia to keep the

\* Third Plate