

the office of the chief of the guides, we find an exact catalogue of the different ascents, their date, the names of the tourists and of the guides, and unfortunately—the records of the different accidents that have happened. Here and there stands a cross and the words, "Requiescat in Pace," recalling sad memories. On one of these pages we find the record of the tragic death of the pioneer of Mont Blanc: "Jacques Balmat, died September, 1834. His body lay at the bottom of an immense abyss, where avalanches of stones and ice fall every moment, at the foot of one of the lofty peaks bounding the valley of Sixt. The precipice over which he fell is more than 400 feet in depth."

Some of the ascents accomplished in recent years have been noteworthy. In 1865, Lord Douglas and Messrs. Hudson and Hadow (the same who perished a few days later in the first ascent of the Matterhorn), reached the summit in fourteen and a half hours. In 1838, Mdlle. D'Angeville, of La Bresse, attempted the ascent. She seems to have resolved to accomplish it or perish in the attempt, for she said to her guide, Couttet: "If I die before reaching the summit, swear to me that you will carry my body up and bury it

there!" She not only attained the goal, but may even be said to have gone beyond it, for, on reaching the summit, she made her



AT WORK WITH THE  
ICE AXE.

guides lift her up and hold her for a moment above their heads.

On August 18th, 1875, a young lady of 16, Mdlle. Aline Loppe, daughter of the painter of Mont