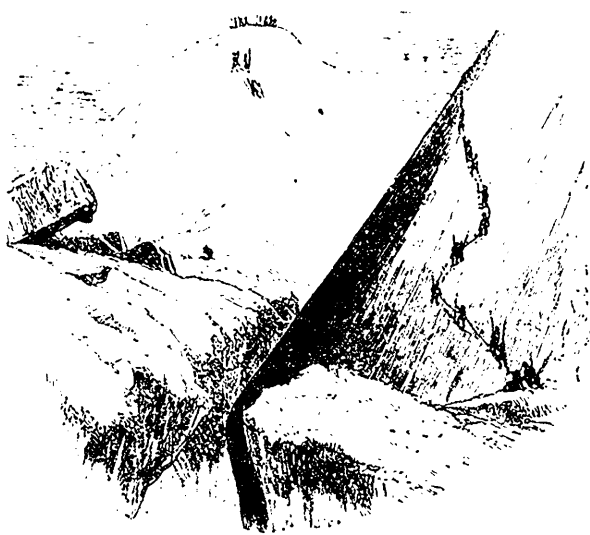


and a diploma from the King of Sardinia. A subscription was opened in his honour, and on August 13th, he visited De Saussure, who received him with transports of joy and handed over to him the promised recompense.

The following year, the learned naturalist, Saussure, left Chamounix under the guidance of Balmat, and accompanied by his servant and seventeen porters, carrying provisions, scientific instruments, ladders, and a tent, determined to reach the summit of Mont Blanc.



ASCENT OF MONT BLANC.

The first day's work was easy. The second day's was more fatiguing. With much difficulty they crossed the glacier, which was full of wide crevasses, and passed the night on the snow, at an altitude of nearly 13,000 feet. On the third day, near noon, De Saussure and his numerous attendants reached the goal of his dreams and aspirations. "My first glance," he says, "was directed towards Chamounix, where I knew that my wife and her two sisters were following through

the telescope all my steps with an inquietude no doubt unnecessarily great, but none the less tormenting; and I felt greatly relieved when I saw the flag flying which they had promised to hoist as soon as, seeing me on the summit, their fears should be at least suspended.

"I was then able to enjoy the grand spectacle which I had beneath my eyes—the assemblage of lofty peaks with whose organization I had so long desired to become acquainted. I could scarcely believe my eyes—it seemed to me to be a dream—when I saw beneath my feet those terrific summits whose very bases I had found it so difficult and dangerous to reach. A single glance cleared up difficulties which years of study had not been able to solve."

He remained on the summit four hours and a half, and made numerous observations, both physical and physiological. The next day, the entire party re-entered Chamounix, safe and sound, and hailed by the acclamations of the entire population. A few days later, an English physician, Mr. Beaufroy, made the ascent of the mountain with ten guides.

Mont Blanc has since been ascended more than 1,050 times, being an average of ten ascents per annum. We have taken these figures from the famous register of the Company of Guides of Chamounix. In this notable volume, a ponderous folio, with brass-tipped corners, kept under a glass case in