

obstacles had to be overcome in order to cross the lofty pass, which, being more than 8,000 feet in altitude, is not free from snow until late in the summer. Owing to the difficulties experienced, the First Consul resolved to take in hand at once the construction of a carriage-road across the Simplon. In 1801 five thousand labourers were set to work on either side of the mountain, and by dint of indomitable courage and extraordinary exertions they overcame every obstacle and completed their task



THE HOSPICE OF ST. BERNARD.

in the course of five summers. The expenses of the undertaking amounted to £280,000; 250 tons of powder were employed in blasting the galleries, which had a total length of 1,720 feet; 611 bridges had to be constructed.

Napoleon's plan embraced the erection upon the summit of the Simplon of a hospice, which might in case of necessity serve as barracks. At present four of the brethren from the St. Bernard reside constantly in this desolate spot as delegates of the convent and devote themselves, like their fellows, to the relief of travellers