

Roads, called Passes, have been constructed over all the principal mountain-chains, connecting the valleys and, in some instances, countries. Some of these roads are of great antiquity and date back as far as the Romans, and many suppose that the Carthaginian general, Hannibal, crossed the Pass of the Little St. Bernard on his march to invade Italy. Some of the Passes are only mule paths; but the great Napoleon converted many of these roads into magnificent carriage routes. The Pass of the Great St. Bernard is well known from the Hospice at its summit, where live the benevolent family of monks who devote their lives to the care of travellers. It is also from this Hospice that the sagacious dogs of St. Bernard are sent out to search for and



HOSPICE OF ST. BERNARD.

rescue travellers who may have been overtaken in one of the terrible snow-storms common to the region. The Pass over Mont Cenis, being frequently buried up by avalanches, was at length found to be very unreliable as a road for travel, and it was concluded necessary to tunnel the Alps. The great work was begun in 1857 and ended in 1870, employing thousands of men day and night. It is 39,750 feet long.

The still longer tunnel, that of Mont St. Gothard, is ten miles long. Think of a ride of ten miles in darkness and smoke! The Passes of the Alps are generally built over the lowest traversable part of a mountain, but some of them attain a great elevation.