

Pass, the road pierces through a tunnel, while far below brawls the raging torrent, clearly seen, but at this distance unheard.

The noon-day rest, at the summit of the pass, in full view of the highest peak in Europe, with the lunch of bread and goat's milk cheese, strawberries and cream, was an hour of deep delight. But the afternoon ride down hill into the Vale of Chamonix was one of excessive fatigue. Jolt, jolt, went that dreadful mule, till every joint seemed dislocated. I was glad to dismount and walk by way of rest. But the Monarch of Mountains, in his lonely majesty, rises every moment higher and higher.



ALPINE ROAD AND TUNNEL.

With a good glass—after sweeping up its broad zones of pine-forest, bare rock, glacier, and everlasting snow—I could see four black figures like emmets, which, I was told, were men climbing the mountain. But with all its grandeur, Mount Blanc will not compare with the immortal loveliness of the Jungfrau, the Virgin Queen of the Bernese Oberland.

Never was more weary wight than he who dismounted from his mule at the Hotel des Alpes at Chamonix. Ben Johnson cynically says that one's warmest welcome is always at an inn. It is amusing to witness the affectionate solicitude of the Swiss host for his guests' welfare. As they ride up to the door, a lackey in waiting rings a large warning bell. Then three or four waiters in swallow-tails, or valets in uniform, swarm out to assist the travellers to dismount, and the *maitre d'hotel* gives them most unctuous greeting, and assigns them rooms in turn, to which they are conducted by neat *femmes de chambre* in Bernese costume and snowy cap. At the dining table one's seat corresponds with the number of his room. At a signal from the head-waiter, his well-trained subordinates file in and out like automatic figures, with the several courses. These are almost invariably as follows: Soup, fish, roast, vegetables alone, chicken and salad together, dessert and fruit. Dinner generally lasts an hour, but after a hard day's work one does not grudge the time, and it gives an opportunity to study the varied phases of tourist char-