

A CANADIAN IN EUROPE.

BY W. H. WITHROW, M.A.

MARTIGNY—FREIBURG.*



AUBERGE AT THE CHAPEAU, MOUNT BLANC.

MY experience as a "tramp" on the Wengern Alp and Gemmi Pass had given me enough of walking for awhile, so I resolved to ride over the mountains from Martigny to Chamonix. Repairing, therefore, to the "Bureau of Guides," I engaged a mule and attendant for the following day. The head guide urged me to take the easier route by the Col de Balme, but I insisted on the more rugged but vastly grander route by Salvan. The guide, therefore, wrote out an agreement in duplicate, which we both

signed as formally as if the bargain were to go to the North Pole. It was quite a curiosity in its way, and ran thus: "Un guide et un mulet pour Chamonix, par Salvan et par Gorge du Trient, et source de l'Arveiron. Hotel Clerc a 7 heures matin. Prix 20f. et le pour boire.—Le guide chef, Rouville."

Mounting my mule, with knapsack strapped on behind the saddle, I rode down the broad Rhone Valley to the Gorge du Trient. Dismounting, I penetrated a narrow cleft in the mountain through which tears a foaming torrent. It is grand and

* For the cuts that illustrate this and succeeding articles I am indebted to Daniel Beatty's interesting book, "In Foreign Lands."