

now returned with the rest of the expedition. All these brave mountaineers, struck with a kind of stupor, deplored with one voice the death of their comrades, and the distress into which the event had plunged their families.

The two Englishmen contributed very generously to their relief, but Dr. Hamel, whose conduct throughout was characterized by want of feeling and a headstrong arrogance, took no part in providing for them. Nothing, however, could console the mother of one of the three victims, Pierre Balmat. She wept incessantly ; three months afterwards she died.

On the 15th of August 1861 was fulfilled the last episode of this sorrowful tragedy. A Chamounix guide discovered on the glacier des Bossons two human skulls with their integuments, and an arm with the hand still adhering, the whole clothed in ruddy flesh. A few fragments of bags, and clothes, and other signs, left no doubt that these ghastly wrecks had belonged to the two guides, Pierre Balmat and Pierre Carrier. Finally, on the 1st July 1863, the glacier des Bossons surrendered some additional human remains ; a foot, covered with its flesh and nails, still attached by the muscles to a fleshless tibia. By the side of the foot lay a compass, probably Dr. Hamel's, which the guide Auguste Tieraz had carried. It was a grandson of the victim, Joseph Tieraz, photographer of Chamounix, who chanced upon this sad discovery.

Many ascents of Mont Blanc have been undertaken since those described in the preceding pages. Mountaineering has, in truth, become a mania ; in England an "Alpine Club" has been formed for its scientific development ; and the Mont Blanc route is now so well defined that it has been successfully accomplished by ladies. Few adventurers, however, escape without some more or less dangerous mishap ; and there seems much good sense in the words with which Captain Sherwill, one of the number, concludes his narrative :—" I advise no one to undertake an ascent, for the result can never have an importance proportionate to the dangers which you must incur, and in which you must involve others."

" Des guides payant la conduite,
Paul au Mont Blanc est parvenu . . .
Bravo ! Mais qu'a-t-il fait ensuite ? . . .
Ensuite ?—Il en est revenu ! "