

brated mountain.\* As we have already remarked, the enterprise has now become common enough. About forty take place annually. French tourists, however, whose purses are not so well filled as those of the English or Americans, are much inconvenienced by the excessive tariff of the company of guides. The regulations of the local authorities forbid any attempt to be undertaken unless three guides accompany every tourist. For each guide 100 francs is paid, besides additional expenses. If the tariff were more moderate, the number of excursionists to Mont Blanc would be very considerable. During a week which we spent in the Chamounix valley in 1863 to visit the glaciers of the Mont Blanc chain, we witnessed the departure and arrival of a dozen *societies* (such is the authorized term); and on the 20th of August, at ten A.M., we counted, through the telescope of the *Hôtel de Saussure*, no less than five-and-twenty persons collected on the crest of the Giant of the Alps.

In their eager desire to collect artistic representations of all the wonders of the globe, our photographers, English and French, have not suffered themselves to be daunted by the difficulties presented by the transport to Mont Blanc of all the Daguerrian *materiel*. In July 1861, M. Bisson succeeded in conveying his apparatus to the very summit of Mont Blanc, and obtained some admirable photographic views, from one of which Figure 59 has been copied. It represents the passage of the Echelles by the guides who accompanied M. Bisson and carried his instruments. This *Passage des Echelles* leads up to the *Grands Mulets*.

Next to Mont Blanc, it is MONT PERDU whose first ascent (accomplished by Ramond, in 1802) has excited the greatest interest. The adventure was noteworthy in some of its details, and may be placed before the reader.

Mont Perdu, situated in Spain, is the loftiest peak of the Pyrenees, next to Maladetta and the Pic Posets. It is 11,168 feet in height. It was regarded as wholly inaccessible prior to its conquest by Ramond, the illustrious French naturalist, to whom we owe the beautiful descriptions which have deservedly secured for him the title of "Painter of the Pyrenees."

It was on the 2nd of August 1802, that Ramond succeeded in climbing Mont Perdu, after having failed in three successive attempts.

Ramond started from the valley of Estaubé, and by the route named the Passe des Glouriettes, which leads to a cirque, or amphitheatre, resembling that of Gavarnie. In the eastern part of the

\* [The most celebrated are those of Mr. Auldjo, Sir Charles Fellows (in 1827), and Professor Tyndall (in 1857-58). For further information, the reader may refer to the several series of "Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers."]