

have already recorded. The day after the triumph of De Saussure, Pierre Bourrit, escorted by a few guides, climbed the acclivities of Mont Blanc; but a storm forced him almost immediately to retrace his steps.

He was not much more successful in his essay in the following year. It seemed written by an inexorable Fate that the indefatigable Bourrit should pass his life in showing his rivals the route to Mont Blanc, without ever arriving thither himself. A hard and contradictory fortune for one who justly entitled himself the Painter of the Alps, and whose merit it was to be the first to attract by his works (particularly by his descriptions and his remarkable drawings of the Glaciers) the attention of Europe to the beauties of these mountains, then unexplored by tourists.

On the 5th of August 1788, the year following De Saussure's expedition, an Englishman and a Dutchman, Mr. Woodley and M. Camper, undertook the same ascent, accompanied by twelve guides. Unfortunately, they conceived the notion of accepting Bourrit as a companion, and it seems to have been his miserable privilege to cast a fatal shadow upon every enterprise of this kind. Mr. Woodley had his hands and feet frozen; some of the guides, too, had the joints of their hands and feet frost-bitten. Bourrit, stricken half-blind, only recovered his sight by applications of snow continued for thirteen days.

It was an Englishman, however, Colonel Beaufoy, who was the first to follow successfully in the footsteps of De Saussure, and to reach the summit of Mont Blanc (August 9th, 1790). On his return he was in danger of losing his sight. Alpine climbers did not then protect themselves, as they now-a-days do, by a simple veil of blue or green gauze, from the dazzling reflection of the sun's rays upon the snows, and consequently they were exposed to dangerous ophthalmic attacks and swellings of the face.

In 1797, four of Colonel Beaufoy's countrymen made the same attempt; but the bad weather compelled them to re-descend, all having suffered more or less severely, and experienced some danger-