

ous falls. One of the guides broke his leg ; another split his skull open.

On the 10th of August 1802, Baron Doorthesen, a Russian gentleman, and M. Forneret, of Lausanne, attained the summit of the mountain ; but they had incurred so many dangers, and endured so many sufferings, that they declared no power on earth should force them to repeat the ascent.

Let us note an attempt on the 10th of September 1812, successfully carried out by M. Rodaz of Hombourg ; and another, August 4th, 1818, by a Polish gentleman, the Count Matezecki.

No American as yet had followed in the arduous footstep of the conquerors of Mont Blanc. The charm was broken, June 17th, 1819, by Dr. Van Reusselaer of New York, and Mr. Howard of Baltimore. They suffered greatly both from heat and cold, and were long ill with an affection of the eyes and face.

It was with a purely scientific object that Dr. Hamel, councillor of the Russian court, betook himself, in 1821, to the foot of Mont Blanc, to escalate its snowy peak.

This eminent man of science travelled at the cost of the Russian Government, to undertake certain inquiries into the physical condition of the globe, and was everywhere attended by a train of all kinds of instruments of observation. We shall describe the ascent of Mont Blanc attempted by the Russian physicist, not for any scientific results obtained from it, but on account of the catastrophe which abruptly terminated it, and whose sad recollections are still fresh in the valley of Chamounix.

On the 3rd of August 1820, the anniversary of Saussure's successful enterprise, a first attempt was made by Dr. Hamel, *viâ* the glaciers of Bionnassay and the Aiguille du Gôûter ; but the outbreak of a storm, and the cloud-masses which hung upon the mountain, compelled him to descend.

It was on the 18th of August that he recommenced his ascent. He was accompanied by two English gentlemen, Mr. Dornford (?) and