

cenighe by the usual route through the Val di Gares and Val delle Cornelle. Wishing to reach Primiero rather than San Martino, they determined to try and effect a descent through the gorge between the Cima della Rosetta and the Palle di San Martino. They kept to the left side of the gorge till they reached a shelf of grass cut off from other grass slopes below by a wall of very steep rocks, sixty or seventy feet high. A point was found where these rocks could be descended without great difficulty, and the correct course is then to the right, down a gully, to the dry bed of the torrent. (The party having no local knowledge, tried to descend by the grass slopes, inclining to the left, but found themselves stopped by impracticable precipices, and were forced to return after losing much time.) A track is then found which crosses débris slopes on the right bank of the gorge, and, passing above a projecting mass of rock, leads down more débris slopes to the woods and pastures below. A path, badly marked at first, then leads through woods and over pastures by the left bank of the Cismona to Siror and Primiero. There seems to be but one practicable way down the gorge, but if this were known, 3½ hours, or less, should suffice from the top of the pass to Primiero, and the route appears to be a short and interesting way from Cencenighe to Primiero. Passo della Rosetta would seem to be an appropriate name for the pass if it does not already possess one.

ALPINE NOTES.

MOUNT ARARAT.—Mr. James Bryce, D.C.L., has this autumn ascended Ararat. His success has drawn attention to two earlier English ascents, made in 1845 by Mr. H. Danby Seymour, and in 1856 by Majors Robert Stuart and Alick Fraser, the Rev. Walter Thursby, Mr. James Theobald, of Winchester, and Mr. John Evans, of Darley Abbey, Derbyshire, which had, through the reticence of the climbers, fallen into oblivion. We hope to publish further details of Mr. Bryce's ascent, the first made since mountain climbing has become popular by a practised mountaineer. At the same time we shall endeavour, with the assistance of Captain Telfer's Russian knowledge, to make a complete list of the ascents of the mountain. Any information on the subject would be very welcome.

THE MATTERHORN WITHOUT GUIDES.—The following letter is reprinted from the 'Times' of August 5:—

'Sir,—The feat of ascending the Matterhorn without guides has for the first time been performed by three Englishmen, Messrs. A. Cust, Colgrove, and Cawood, all members of the Alpine Club and experienced mountaineers, but none of whom had ascended the Matterhorn before. The guides were naturally jealous of the attempt, and the party had difficulty in finding porters to carry provisions, but at last procured two through the help of Mr. Seiler, the landlord. They left the hotel at Zermatt on Friday, July 21, at 11 a.m., intending to pass the night at the hut, the position of which two of the party had ex-

ploded the previous day. It should be stated in excuse for what some might think an act of foolhardiness that the party agreed that if they came to places of positive danger they would desist from the attempt, but the state of the weather and the mountain was highly favourable to them. The hut is situated about half-way up to the shoulder of the mountain, on a ledge at the foot of a rock, which protects it from rolling stones. The approach to it is along the *arête* of the Hörnli, then up the steep, rough, rocky slope of the mountain at an angle of about 50 deg., with some steep climbing towards the top. The party reached the hut at 6 P.M., and let the porters go back. They contrived, with difficulty, to light a fire, the floor being covered with ice, and made themselves as comfortable as circumstances admitted. They witnessed a glorious sunset, and saw the vast shadow of the mountain gradually extend its picture along the glacier below, and steal up the side of the Breithorn, which it finally embraced.

At about 2.30 A.M., the morning being very cold, the fire was again coaxed up for coffee, and the party set off at 3.45. The part above the hut was considerably harder than that below. Climbing, though never of a hard kind, was continually necessary, and judgment in selecting the way amid the ridges and ledges, and some cairns of stones were made to guide in the descent. This part of the ascent was tedious and laborious, and great care was necessary to avoid knocking stones on those below. The patches of snow were also troublesome, being, in fact, ice in which steps had to be cut, and cautious treading was requisite. On reaching the *arête* above the shoulder they could see the steep side of the mountain, which was the scene of the fatal disaster a few years ago; it is not a precipice, but a very steep slope of rough, broken rock; and a short distance off was a cord hanging down from a rock, bleached with time, a melancholy memento of that event. No party has ever since crossed that fatal slope. There are now some chains fixed to staples in the rock, and by the help of these the party ascended the steep rocky *arête* which forms the upper boundary of the dark triangle so conspicuous at the summit of the mountain. With the help of the chains they found no difficulty in this part of the ascent, the fatal ice slope being avoided by keeping near to the *arête* on the left, though, of course, extreme caution in stepping was required. In this way they reached the summit of the mountain, which was covered with snow, curling over the black sheer precipice on the Italian side; the other face, covered with snow, being so steep as to render the greatest care necessary, and obliging the party to keep roped together. As they moved one of the party put his foot through the snow, and they could see through the hole far down to the plain below. On this ridge are three points, the middle being the highest; on this they found a pole set up, to which they added a crossbar with their names. They reached the top at 9.30, and after little more than an hour spent in admiring the glorious view they commenced their descent. Their course had been watched through telescopes from Zermatt and the Riffel, and their arrival on the summit hailed with pleasure. They found no particular difficulty in the descent, but of course they used every precaution. The long climb down the face of the mountain was, however, very

fatiguing. They reached the hut at 3.30, and, after some rest, continued the descent to Zermatt, where they arrived at 9.30, amid the congratulations of the visitors, who had all taken a great interest in the exploit. The guides, of course, were chagrined at their success, as somewhat damaging to their prospects.

'This achievement should be no encouragement to inexperienced travellers, nor should any attempt be made to repeat it, except in very favourable circumstances.

'Yours obediently,

'X.'

In consequence of this letter to the 'Times,' Mr. Cust and his companions were accused by the 'Globe' of foolhardiness, and in a second letter Mr. Cust repelled the charge at some length. We have not space, and it would be useless, to reprint the correspondence here. The opinion held by most members of the Alpine Club, as to mountaineering without guides is well known. We believe that a party consisting *solely* of experienced climbers is justified in undertaking any expedition of moderate difficulty. Mr. Cust has sufficiently proved that he and his friends were duly qualified; and all climbers know—though the 'Globe,' which is so confused as to Swiss geography as to believe the Titlis to be close to the Diavolezza Pass, could hardly be expected to know—that under favourable circumstances the Matterhorn is a mountain of very moderate difficulty. If there is any moral to be drawn, it is not the 'Globe's.' There is no reason why mountaineers should give up a legitimate enjoyment lest the proverbial fool should rush in or up on their traces. But it might perhaps be well if they reserved the record of their ascents for a journal which that individual does not often see.

FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE FELIK JOCH.—The following letter appeared in the 'Times' of September 4.

'Sir,—I regret to have to record a fatal disaster which happened on the Felik Joch on Monday, the 28th inst. Two English gentlemen—Mr. Hayman and Mr. Johnson, accompanied by the two brothers Ignatz and Franz Sarbach, guides of St. Niklaus—left the chalet of the Courde-Lys, at the head of the Gressonay Valley, at 5 A.M. on Monday morning, with the intention of traversing the Felik Joch to the Riffel Hotel, on the Zermatt side of the range. Owing to a fog, the party kept too much to the right, but succeeded in almost reaching a ridge east of, but a good deal higher than, the Felik Joch. Here it was necessary that they should proceed along a very steep slope of snow, overhanging an ice wall of great depth, and, when on it, an avalanche of snow precipitated the whole party down the ice wall. Two of the party—Mr. Hayman and Ignatz Sarbach—escaped with their lives, but the other two—Mr. Johnson and Franz Sarbach—were buried under the avalanche, and probably smothered instantaneously, as their companions could neither see any traces of them nor get any response to their shouts, although they remained on the spot for some hours. Ignatz Sarbach managed to make his way out of the avalanche and succeeded in taking Mr. Hayman over the ridge to the Zermatt side of the Felik Joch, where, exposed to the inclemency of the weather and totally devoid

of provisions, they passed the night on the snow, half an hour below the summit of the Col. Here, at 10 A.M. on the following day, a large party, which had started from the Riffel Hotel to make the ascent of Castor, found Mr. Hayman almost in a state of collapse, with both hands frost-bitten, and Ignatz Sarbach with the use of both hands also gone from the same cause. With great difficulty Mr. Hayman was conveyed to the Riffel Hotel, and, although yesterday evening in a very critical state, to-day he may be considered out of danger. He is being most carefully nursed, and two English physicians—Dr. Alfred B. Thompson, Serjeants' Inn, London, and Dr. William Thompson, surgeon to the Dublin Hospital—are remaining here until their services will not be longer requisite. Great thanks are due to a young surgeon who came on to the Gerner Glacier to meet the party conveying Mr. Hayman, and who, by his skill, managed to keep up pulsation. While a portion of the party which found Mr. Hayman proceeded to take him down towards the Riffel, the remainder were guided by Ignatz Sarbach to the scene of the accident, which it took nearly an hour and a half to reach. It was quite obvious that there was no chance of finding either Mr. Johnson or Franz Sarbach alive, and the small number of the party, the insufficient quantity of rope with them, and the dangerous condition of the snow above the ice wall, made it impossible to attempt to recover the bodies. Ignatz Sarbach behaved with great courage in remounting to the scene of the accident after having lost the use of both hands. He was greatly affected by the loss of his brother Franz, who has left a widow and two children, I regret to have to mention. Mr. Joseph Seiler, the son of the proprietor of the Riffel Hotel, started this morning with eighteen guides with the intention of recovering the bodies, but have been unsuccessful in their search. As an accident in Switzerland generally produces exaggerated and various accounts, I trust you will publish this as coming from one on the spot and in possession of the facts.

'I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

'D. J. ABERCROMBY, A. C.

'The Riffel Hotel, Zermatt, Valais, Switzerland, Aug. 30.'

Mr. Hayman died a day or two afterwards from the effects of exposure.

It is obvious that we have not as yet full materials before us on which to form a judgment as to the conduct of the guides. We do not know the exact spot of the accident, or how long a circuit would have been necessary to avoid the dangerous slope—what was the nature of the avalanche, whether a snowfall from above, or a giving way of the surface caused by the passage of the party, or by an unlucky slip of one of its members. What rope was used and how it broke we ought to be told. The hour of the accident is also of some importance; for if it happened, as is probable, not later than midday, the failure of Mr. Hayman and his companion to reach shelter before nightfall, even allowing for several hours spent in searching for their lost companions, requires explanation. Unfortunately it has not yet been possible to obtain this information. It does not, however, seem likely that any serious fault was committed by anyone. All that can be said, with

our present knowledge of the facts, has already been well said in an article in the 'Saturday Review,' which, bearing in mind the castigation recently inflicted on Mr. Augustus Hare, we will not quote, or attribute to Mr. Lealie Stephen.

THE MONUMENT TO CHANOINE CARREL.—The subscription for this purpose has reached 1000 francs (40*l.*). A tablet has been erected at Val Tournanche, bearing an appropriate inscription. Its erection was celebrated by a meeting and dinner, organised by the Aostan branch of the I. A. C., on July 30. An account of the manner in which the fund collected has been employed will shortly be sent to subscribers.

THE AILEFROIDE AND PICS DU GLACIER BLANC.—Mr. Coolidge writes:—'In the first Bulletin Trimestriel of the French Alpine Club, I find two statements which I am desirous of correcting. On p. 90, my friend M. Lionel Dècle says that the Ailefroide, one of the highest peaks in Dauphiné, has not been as yet ascended or even attempted. Allow me to remind him that I effected the first ascent on July 7, 1870, from the Glacier du Sélé. (See "Alpine Journal," vol. v. pp. 133-135, and "Annuaire of French Alpine Club" for 1874, p. 401.) The height of this mountain is as yet unsettled. Mr. Tuckett ("Alpine Journal," vol. i. p. 182,) followed by Mr. Bonney ("Sketches," p. 50,) gives it at 3,925 mètres, on the authority of the French engineers. According to his own observations, it is 3,959 mètres, rather higher than the Pelvoux. Singularly enough, neither the published État Major map, nor that given with the first "Annuaire of the French Club," assign any height to this peak. (The figures 3,915 mètres and 3,854 mètres refer, according to Mr. Tuckett, to the Crête du Pelvoux or Pic Sans Nom, which is certainly lower than either the Ailefroide or Pelvoux. M. Dècle is therefore wrong in stating the height of the Ailefroide to be 3,854 mètres.) My own impression, derived from ascents of both peaks in July 1870, is that the Ailefroide slightly exceeds the Pelvoux in height.

'On p. 127 of the same Bulletin, M. Paul Guillemin states that the "Pics du Glacier Blanc" have not been ascended, or that at least no account of the ascent is known to exist. I made the first ascent of the highest point of this group, marked Pic Signalé 3,660 mètres on the French map, on July 17, 1873, from the Glacier d'Arsine. (See "Alpine Journal," vol. i. p. 291, vol. ii. p. 139, and "Annuaire of the French Club" for 1874, p. 406, where there is a misprint in the date.)

'I take the present opportunity of correcting a misprint in my article in the "Journal" for February 1875, p. 142, to which my attention has been drawn. The arête by which my party effected the first ascent of the Grande Ruine is not a ridge projecting to NW. from the watershed, but to SE., and is probably the same as the spur separating two branches of the Glacier de la Casse Déserte.'

DENT BLANCHE.—On July 12, Mr. F. Gardiner, accompanied by the guides, Peter and Hans Knubel, left the hut on the Stockje at 1.45 A.M. and arrived at the summit of this peak at 11.15 A.M. Owing to large quantities of snow and ice-covered rocks, it was found impossible to take the ordinary route, and they followed the S. arête almost in its entirety, meeting with considerable difficulties. During the descent

they were caught in a violent snow storm, and reached the new inn at the foot of the Ferpèle Glacier at 6 P.M.

CIMON DELLA PALA.—Two ascents of this peak, the second and third, were made this year. On August 17 it was reached by Count Welsberg, Signor Cesare Tomè, of Agordo, and Mons. Albert de Falkner, with five guides (two of them from Caprile, B. della Santa and C. Collegari), headed by Santo Siorpaes. They were twenty-two hours out from the Cantoniera of Rolla, near the Costonzella Pass. On September 17, Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and Santo Siorpaes, made the third ascent. He left Paneveggio at 5.10 A.M., reached top 1.45 P.M., left 2.10, and regained the pasturages at 6.30. 'We had great difficulty in the ascent, as the rocks (which wherever they were free seemed comparatively easy) were cased in ice, and covered, moreover, with much fresh snow in a very bad state. The last couloir, as we found it, was all but impracticable. We found Whitwell's cairn and tin box—the Italian party had taken his card*—and a flag planted by Count Welsberg. Seen from the top, the Vezzana all but equalled the Cimon in height, although the new sheet of the Austrian map gives the difference between them as 91 mètres.

'My aneroid gave on the Cimon 3,300 mètres=10,725 ft. Throughout September the instrument gave readings higher than either the Austrian map or Grohmann's, and I am disposed, therefore, to think that the reading 3,220 mètres for the Cimon on the new sheet is nearly right.'

NOTES ON INNS.—Very good accommodation, food, and attention are obtained at the little 'Gasthof Zum Goldenen Kreuz,' close to the church in the village of Toblach.

The 'Albergo all' Antelao,' at San Vito, is very comfortable, and the hosts most attentive.

At Cencenighe homely but comfortable accommodation and great civility may be found at the 'Viandante,' on the right bank of the Biois torrent.

A new inn has been opened at Chiesa (Val Malenco) by Signor Olivo, which is said to offer good accommodation.

MISCELLANEA.—Mr. Budden has recently presented the Alpine Club, on behalf of the Florentine Section of the Italian Alpine Club, with copies of fine panoramic views of Monte Rosa from near Alogna, Monte Viso from San Chiafreddo, and the 'Alpi Apuane' taken by Signor Besso, of Biella, from whom copies may be obtained.

M. Viellet-le-duc, the well-known French architect, has published a treatise on the chain of Mont Blanc, in which he endeavours to trace the changes by which it has been brought to its present form. It is accompanied by a beautiful map on a scale of $\frac{1}{400000}$. The book is about to be translated into English. The Abbé Gorret has published an excellent guide to the Val d'Aoste.

A collection of oil-sketches of Alpine subjects by Signor Guazzo, of Florence, are now on view and sale at the Alpine Club-rooms. Some of the subjects are from the Engadine, others from the Italian lakes.

* The practice of carrying off such mementoes is too prevalent. A card in a tin box is in safe keeping, and has, where it is, an interest, which once removed is entirely lost.