

resemblance to the Gypsies; some have even fancied them to be descended from the lost tribes of Israel (!); but there can be no doubt they represent the aboriginal inhabitants of Norway before the Scythians or followers of Odin, whose descendants are the present Scandinavian race, came in and drove them, as the Saxons drove the Celts, into the most remote and inhospitable extremities of their own land. Here, however, the Laplanders seem perfectly contented, declaring themselves happy in possession of, and unwilling to take any exchange for, the enjoyment of their wandering mode of life. With no habitation whatever but his tent, an abode that may be shifted from place to place at will, wherever fancy, caprice, or inclination may tempt him for a while to live, the Laplander has no care in life but for his herd of tame reindeer, which provide him with the means of travelling, with clothing for all seasons, with food and drink at all times of the year, milk daily, venison, and the warmest fur. Of their sinews he will manufacture cord and string; as also from the horns he will make spoons, and so on; each family of Laplanders requiring, therefore, a herd for its support of no less than three hundred reindeer or more, which live only upon the moss that is named after them. This moss is found more abundantly in Sweden than in Norway; but in the former country it is much less used, by reason of the climate, which is far colder in Norway, where the land is higher, healthier, and more adapted to their wants. The Laplander takes particular delight in the society of his own family, to which he is deeply attached and towards which he exhibits, especially if there are young children, the tenderest affection.

Anyone who wishes for such a life as I have described, and is prepared for the light hardships which it involves, ought to be completely independent, and not rely upon the country for night's lodging or supplies, but have his own tent and necessary outfit. In the far North he will be rewarded by the contemplation of some of Nature's most glorious phenomena; by scenes of grandeur pure and holy, enough to make a turning point in one's whole life, an epoch to look back upon. In summer-time he will see the midnight sun; in winter, if able to endure it, the weird magical effect which makes all nature seem to lie spell-bound by some enchantment, when colouring the sky with a million rainbow hues it is seen over vast, endless territories of untrodden snow,—the Aurora Borealis. In no part of the world, I believe, can scenery be witnessed more glorious, ennobling, or sublime; no country of Europe will be found more healthy in its influence, or profitable to wander over, with tent and guides, than Norway.

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## ALPINE NOTES.

THE CIMA DI JAZZI FROM MACUGNAGA.—The following letter has been received:—

*To the Editor of the Alpine Journal.*

‘DEAR SIR,—I notice in the “Alpine Journal” for November last an account of an ascent of the Cima di Jazzi from Macugnaga, by

Signor G. Spezzia, on August 27, 1874, placed under the heading "New Expeditions." It may therefore be interesting to you to know that I made this ascent (eleven days before) on the 16th of August in the same year.

'I left the Monte Rosa Hotel at Macugnaga at 3.30 a.m., with the younger Alexander Lochmatter (the son of the hotel keeper) and a porter, intending to cross the Weisssthor and then ascend the Cima, but induced by the fineness of the weather and by Lochmatter's assurance, in reply to a question from myself, that the direct ascent from that side had never been made, I changed my plans and decided to make the attempt.

'So far as my recollection and the few notes I have kept serve me, we left the Weisssthor route at about 6 or 6.30, and reached the top of the mountain at 11.30; of these last five or five-and-a-half hours, three were spent on rocks, and about two on snow. The final snow-slope brought us straight up to the cornice which fringes the crest of the mountain, through which Lochmatter cut a passage which landed us about six yards to the left of the actual summit.

'The Cima di Jazzi has also been ascended from the old Weisssthor side by Mr. C. E. Mathews. I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

'ARTHUR A. PEARSON.'

THE GROSS SCHRECKHORN AND GROSS LAUTERAARHORN.—'Mr. Ball, in his "Central Alps," speaks of the summit of the Schreckhorn as "a crescent-shaped ridge about 400 YARDS IN LENGTH, convex towards the east, with the highest peak at the north end, the projecting point at the south extremity,—called Gross Lauteraarhorn by the Hasli guides, and Desorhorn by others, being 91 feet lower than the other."

'From personal observation last summer on the highest peak of the Schreckhorn, I am sure that the Swiss Federal Map by no means exaggerates the distance between the two peaks referred to, by placing them (according to its scale) at upwards of 1,040 yards apart.—F. T. WETHERED.'

HUT ON THE COL DU GÉANT.—The following note has been received:—'*Villeneuve, Val d'Aosta, July 17, 1876.*—To-day forty-five guides, porters, and workmen take materials to the top of the Col du Géant from Courmayeur to make a hut there. The greater part of them descend to Courmayeur to-day, but some few remain there over to-night to fix it to-morrow.—F. T. WETHERED.'

MONTE GENEROSO.—The following facts as to Monte Generoso may be added to those given in the 'Alpine Guide,' 1876:—

Rovio, half-an-hour's drive from the new station at Maroggia, is a charming halting-place, surrounded by chestnut groves and beautiful meadows. A curious and apparently very ancient church, with frescoes round the apse, stands alone on the brow five minutes' walk west of the village. A carriage-road leads under the spurs of Monte Generoso to Arogno, in a romantic position at the head of a glen, whence a path crosses the hills to Val Intelvi.

The proprietor of the 'Hotel Rovio,' a comfortable pension, has made a good path practicable for horses to Dr. Pasta's. It climbs through

the cliffs by two steep flights of zigzags, each surmounted by a level terrace looking over the lake towards Monte Rosa.

Dr. Pasta's house has been doubled in size by the addition of a wing, many of the rooms in which are furnished with balconies. All who have stayed any time at Dr. Pasta's must have noticed the long and nearly level-topped spur which, abutting on the mountain at the 'Cascina,' projects for some two miles towards the plain, dividing Val Muggio from the glen through which climbs the mule-path from Mendrisio. A gash was visible this spring in the turf under the brow. This is the extremity of a new carriage-road. Starting from Castello San Pietro, a hamlet a mile east of Mendrisio, it ascends by long zigzags a very steep broom-covered hillside to the top of the crest, which it then skirts, now on one side now on the other, to within half a mile of the Hotel. The last mile of made road is still rough, but the rest is a fair country road practicable for carriages on springs. There must be many ladies and invalids who would gladly avail themselves of this means of driving in comfort within an easy stroll of the inn, and thus avoid the tortures of the one-seated cars which crawl up the mule-path. But some local jealousy seems at work, not only to prevent the completion of the good road through the 'Cascina' meadows to Dr. Pasta's door, but also to conceal as far as possible the fact of its neighbourhood.

It is impossible to do any justice to the beauty of the views of Val Muggio, the Zermatt range, and the lowlands seen from this road. No one should fail to follow it at least to the extreme promontory which overhangs Mendrisio.

Doubt is still expressed in the 'Alpine Guide' as to the possibility of distinguishing Monte Viso and the cathedral of Milan. In clear weather both are conspicuous to the naked eye from Dr. Pasta's.

It is satisfactory to be able to add that the financial difficulties of the time, combined with the hitch in the progress of the St. Gothard railway, have led to the abandonment of the branch line up Monte Generoso, for which the preliminary survey was lately made.

Travellers already familiar with the road from Lugano to Luino will do well to cross to Lago Maggiore by Varese. A most charming country road, giving a superb view of Monte Rosa and the Saasgrat leads directly from Mendrisio to Varese.—D. W. F.

FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS.—The general meeting of the Italian Club at Pistoia was fully successful, although the mountain excursions were interfered with by bad weather. An 'Alpine Exhibition' was displayed in the Circolo Filologico at Florence. It included photographs of the Apuan Alps, of the dolomites by Baron du Granges, and relief models of Etna and other mountains by Captain Pistoia of the Italian Staff. The section Domo d'Ossola showed a large collection of 'pictures, animals, and birds.' The congress was attended by three German representatives, three Swiss, and one French.

After the meeting some of the members ascended the Sagro and Pizzo d'Uccello. Barrels of wine and provisions were sent up to them by the good people of Castelnuovo di Garfagnana. Another party attended the opening of a new meteorological observatory at Lugliano,

a village near the baths of Lucca. The important part taken by the Italian Alpine Club in founding throughout Italy a number of such observatories is perhaps scarcely known in England. Monthly reports from over sixty stations are regularly published. A new one was established at Ceresole in the course of last month, and there are now few parts of the Italian Alps unprovided.

The meeting of the Italian Alpine Club for 1877 will be held at Auronzo.

The annual meeting of the French Alpine Club will be held on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of August at Annecy. Excursions will be organised to the Semnoz, the Parmelan, and the Tournette, also to Chamonix by the Col des Aravis. The Tarentaise Section proposes to meet on the 8th of August at the Lac de Tignes, and undertake some excursions before joining the general meeting. Members of the English club are especially invited to attend.

The Swiss Alpine Club holds its annual meeting at Fribourg on the 26th to 28th August.

The American 'Rocky Mountains Club' held its first meeting at Colorado Springs on April 15, 1876, when Dr. Robert Lamborn was elected president. It is proposed at once to found a library, stored with maps, books, and government publications illustrating 'the Great West,' the want of which has up to the present time been severely felt by travellers and residents.

## NOTICES.

THE 'SWISS JAHRBUCH.\*'—The special district for 1874 lay between the Vorder-Rhein-Thal, Val Medel, and the Safien-Thal. Herr Coaz writes on its general physical character, fauna, flora, &c.; Herr v. Sprecher, on its history. A manuscript of Placidus a Spescha, written in 1803, on the Passes of the Grisons, is here first published (from F. v. Salis, of Chur). Excursions were made in the special district by Herren Müller-Wegmann, Zeller-Horner, Seyffertitz, and Hoffmann-Burckhardt. The two former contribute some excellent illustrations. Besides these there are papers on 'Mont Ventoux in Provence,' 'Round Monte Rosa,' and 'The Matterhorn.' There were no less than five parties on the mountain on the same day, August 10, 1874, amongst them Mr. Whymper with a photographic apparatus. This ascent is a strange contrast to Mr. Wethered's on the same day of '75. From the Oberland we have 'First Ascent of the Gschinenhorn,' 'The Tachingel Pass in Winter,' and 'First Passage from the Altels to the Balmhorn.' 'The Difficulties of Geodesy in the High Alps,' 'Sectional Excursion to the Rothe Wand near Bludenz,' 'The Hohe Tatra and Mont Viszoka,' by Mons. Déchy, 'Mountain Slips and their Causes,' by Herr Baltzer;

\* *Jahrbuch des Schweizer Alpenklub*, vol. x., 1874-5. Bern: Dalsp'sche Buchhandlung.