

NEW EXPEDITIONS AND TOPOGRAPHICAL NOTES FOR THE SUMMER OF 1867.

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TYROL, VENETIA, LOMBARDY, AND GRISONS.

The following notes are communicated by Mr. F. F. Tuckett :—

ASCENT OF MONTE CIVITA, OR CIVETTA (10,438 Eng. feet), E. of Alleghe, in the valley of the Cordevole, and between the latter and the Val di Zoldo.—On the 30th May, with my friends, Messrs. F. E. Blackstone, E. Howard, and J. S. Hare, and our guides, Melchior and Jakob Anderegg, I proceeded to Pecol, the highest village in the most northerly branch of the Val di Zoldo, where, after accompanying those gentlemen on their way to Caprile as far as the summit of the Passo di Coldai, I rejoined the Andereggs, who had wisely occupied themselves during my absence in reconnoitring the Civetta, and making themselves familiar with the paths through the woods which clothe its lower slopes. In the evening the son of our host (who was, I believe, the Syndic, to whom we had been recommended by Signor Cercena of Forno di Zoldo) arrived, and informed me that he and one or two companions had twice reached the summit of the mountain. Our ascent appears to have been the first made by any traveller ; but since my return I have learned that Lieutenant Pezzé, of Caprile, successfully followed in our steps somewhat later in the season.

We left Pecol at 1.30 on the morning of the 31st, and, thanks to the reconnaissance of the previous afternoon, made good progress through the broken and wooded lower ground, and struck a path which took us rapidly up the steeper mountain-side beyond, to the slopes of snow—largely composed of the débris of recent and extensive avalanches—leading to the foot of the rocks. These last were reached in three hours, and here began the only difficulty of the ascent. Though not excessively steep, they are not much weathered ; and, as all the snow-discharge of the upper portion of the mountain finds its way over them at various points, one has not only the benefit of its polishing effects, but must run the risk of encountering it at any moment, if the conditions for the production of avalanches exist at the time. In short, for some time after a fresh fall of snow one may be exposed to the chance of considerable, and not easily avoidable, danger for something like an hour. Otherwise there is nothing to stop a fair mountaineer who can trust his head, and does not mind a stiffish scramble.

After passing the steepest portion of the rocks, which lie rather to the left of a direct line between the summit and a spectator at Pecol, there were one or two couloirs to be encountered, and angles to be turned, which the incoherent, treacherous, fresh snow of the previous week rendered unpleasant, especially during the descent ; but having reached the less steeply inclined upper slopes, where all difficulty was at an end,

and the probability or consequence of an avalanche was less to be feared, we halted for breakfast at 5.45. The cloud and light effects had been, and still continued, indescribably grand and beautiful; and though the mists surged about in the valleys, and occasionally shot up wreaths and spires which the rising sun transformed into tongues of fire, the sea of peaks stood out clear and sharp in wonderful array.

Starting again at 6.10, we gained the highest swell of the topmost ridge at 7, and found ourselves looking straight down that superb western rocky wall—which for absolute precipitousness has few equals—upon Alleghe and its lake, and far away to the snowy peaks of the Adamello, Presanella, Orteler, Oetzthal, and Tauern groups, most of whose principal summits were easily identifiable. I have rarely seen a more exquisitely beautiful view, the charm of which was enhanced by the combination of every conceivable variety of cloud display in the lower regions with the most satisfactory clearness aloft. All trace of rock was concealed by the snow, and we were consequently unable to erect a cairn, or discover any sign of our reputed predecessor's visit. From below it is not easy to say which is really the highest summit, but above there could be no question that the more northerly and rounded one decidedly overtopped its southern neighbour.

Thinking it prudent to get down early, both to avoid risk from the ever-increasing softness of the snow, and because we had still a good day's work before us, we commenced the descent at 8, and at 9.20 reached the foot of the rocks, but not without a very unpleasantly close encounter with a huge avalanche, which swept down within twenty feet of us just as we were in one of the steepest places, when it was impossible to do anything but hold on patiently, in the hope that the unwelcome intruder would be pleased to keep strictly to the line of country it had selected, and that its only too probable successors would either be like-minded, or restrain their impatience till we could gain a position of safety. Directly it ceased we put on a spurt, got over the exposed bit without a repetition of the performance, and, when fairly out of range, had the pleasure of witnessing a display of unavailing spite in the shape of a vast frozen cascade, which for ten minutes continued to sweep the cliffs from top to bottom.

If we had followed the morning's course to Pecol, we should have reached it in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour from the rocks, or less than 3 from the summit; but, led away by the temptation of striking out a more direct line in a northerly direction to the Passo di Coldai (generally known locally as the Passo d'Alleghe), we scrambled along the mountain-side across a series of 'graben,' or gullies with precipitous banks, and, after all, had to confess ourselves beaten, and strike straight down into the valley, reaching Pecol in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the rocks, or nearly 4 from the summit.

Setting forth again after a short halt, we reached the Passo di Coldai, or d'Alleghe, in 1 hour, Alleghe itself in $1\frac{1}{4}$ more, and Cencenighe in $1\frac{1}{2}$, whence, reinforced by the addition of Howard, we drove up to Forno di Canali, and put up for the night at an unexpectedly good inn.

The next morning (June 1) we proceeded up the valley to Gares ($1\frac{1}{2}$ hour), and thence by the Val delle Comelle (in 4 hours) to the

Passo della Rosetta*, much of the way through soft snow, which rendered our progress slow. From the col we struck off to the S.E. for the purpose of reconnoitring the Palle di S. Martino, to which has hitherto been assigned the second rank amongst dolomite mountains after the Marmolata. (Marmolata, 11,045 Eng. feet, or 3366·5 mètres, according to Grohmann; Palle di S. Martino, 10,969 feet, or 3343·3 mètres, according to Trinker.) Leaving the comparatively inconspicuous summit of the Cima della Rosetta on our right, we reached in half an hour the crest of an intervening ridge, from which we obtained a wonderful view of the magnificent cliffs of the Palle, but at the same time discovered, to our vexation, that all idea of an ascent in this direction was hopeless. In fact, the summit is guarded on the N., S., and W. by apparently inaccessible precipices, whilst the 'grat' leading up to it from the E. appeared to us to be so serrated as to be quite impassable. It is just possible that on the opposite or S. side snow-slopes or a friendly couloir may facilitate access, and until a near reconnaissance has been made in that direction it would be premature to pronounce a positive opinion. From our point of observation, however, as well as from the Civita, I quite satisfied myself that the highest point of the mass of summits of nearly equal altitude on the N. of the pass—apparently corresponding with the Cimon della Pala of the Lombardo-Venetian map—is loftier than the Palle di S. Martino, and must, if the height assigned to the latter by Trinker be correct, rank next to the Marmolata itself. In Trinker's hypsometrical Tables the Cimon is put at 10,643 Eng. feet, or 3243·9 mètres, and the Palle, as above stated, at 10,969 feet; but my impression is, after sighting them with a level from the Civita, that if the figures were simply transposed the result would not be far from the truth. 531 feet (10,969—10,438) is far too great for the difference between the Civita and Palle, which would be much more closely represented by 205 (10,643—10,438) feet. As seen from Primiero, the Cimon della Pala (the name Cimon is itself intensive) towers up very grandly to the right of the slopes beyond S. Martino di Castrozza, and behind the 'alp' of La Pala, which we traversed in our descent from the Passo della Rosetta. The peak visible from, or at any rate nearest to, S. Martino, is not the highest point, but even it, I believe, is loftier than the Palle di S. Martino—at least so it appeared to me subsequently from the summit of Monte Pavione (Colle di Luna), between Primiero and Feltre.

In a recess between the ridge from which we reconnoitred the Palle and the northern cliffs of the latter is a small glacier displaying blue ice, and descending a short distance in a S.W. direction; and from the same point we had a capital view of another, which streams down to the S.W. from between the Civita and the Cima di Mezzodi, above the S. end of the Lago d'Alleghe. We were unable to examine carefully into the question of the accessibility of the Cimon della Pala from the E., as some intervening spurs concealed the lower portion of the rocks, but it appeared both to Melchior and myself that the chances of a successful attack either on its W. or S. face would be doubtful.

In twenty minutes we regained the col, and finding the snow in

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. ii. p. 138.

better order on the W. side, whilst the great amount of it facilitated the descent, we dropped rapidly down, reaching S. Martino di Castrozza in $1\frac{1}{4}$ hour, and Primiero in $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours more.

SECOND ASCENT (BY TRAVELLERS) OF THE CIMA TOSA, the highest peak of the Brenta Alta group, first reached by Messrs. Ball and Forster, with Matteo Nicolosi, in 1865 (10,850 Eng. feet, according to Mr. Ball, and 10,771 by the *Kataster* Survey).—Leaving my companions to cross the Bocca di Brenta to Pinzolo with Jakob Anderegg and old Nicolosi of Molveno, Melchior and I, with Bonifazio Nicolosi (whose elder brother Matteo had gone to reside in Botzen), started on the 6th of June for the ascent of the Cima Tosa.

Quitting Molveno at 1.45 A.M., we reached the Andolo Malga at 2.45, and that of Ceda at 4. At 4.45, halted for breakfast on a knoll commanding a fine view of the Cima Tosa, which is flanked on the right (in the direction of the Bocca) by two magnificent spires of dolomite. From this point the snow was continuous and very soft, so that our progress was slow, and we took three hours to the summit. Bonifazio called the second highest peak of the group (the Cima Tosa of the government map of Tyrol) the Cima di Mezzodi. Its height must certainly be much more than 10,324 feet, if that of the true Tosa be 10,771 or upwards, as, after repeated careful observations with a level, I satisfied myself that the difference between the two is at any rate less than 100 feet, and probably does not exceed fifty. This opinion has been invariably confirmed on every occasion that has offered for a comparison of the two peaks as seen from various points in the Lombard and Orteler Alps, and it has sometimes struck me that the figures 10,771 may possibly refer in reality to the peak N. of the Bocca di Brenta, in which case 10,850 feet (as determined by Mr. Ball) would probably represent the height of the true Cima Tosa with considerable accuracy.

From the summit it appeared to us that it might possibly be practicable to descend into the head of the Val di Brenta by a long and steep couloir, the bottom of which I had noticed some way below the Bocca (on the W. side) when I crossed it in 1865; but as there was much fresh snow evidently resting on ice, and probable risk from falling stones, we decided to return the way we came. After erecting a stone man a little below the summit, we commenced the descent at 9.15, passed the couloir in safety, and, keeping away to the left round the bases of the noble aiguilles already alluded to, reached a depression in the eastern bounding ridge, and found ourselves looking into the head of the valley which leads up to the Bocca on the Molveno side of the Pass. Here we dismissed Bonifazio, with whom I was much pleased; and whilst he descended straight towards the Val delle Seghe, Melchior and I doubled back to our left along the E. slopes of the aforesaid aiguilles, and reached the Bocca in $\frac{1}{4}$ hour (at 11.15), without the slightest difficulty.

It may be well to add, that the position of the dotted line S. of the Bocca di Brenta on the map of Tyrol does not correspond with that of the true watershed, and thus gives a very incorrect idea of the topography. The summit ascended by us is situated slightly to the S.W. of

the B of 'Bocca di Brenta,' and the watershed, instead of running S. from the Bocca, turns first nearly due W. as far as the *true* Cima Tosa, then for a short distance to the S.W., and finally S.E. to a point nearly midway between the Bocca and Cima del Ges. Thus the whole northern and eastern portion of the névé and glacier, represented in the map as occupying the head of the valley which runs S. to Orsino and Andogno, is in reality directly connected with the ravine in which the Ceda Malga is situated, and drains into the Lago di Molveno.

FROM MARIA SCHMELZ IN THE MARTELL THAL TO STA. CATARINA, over the two highest summits of the Monte Cevedale or Fürkeli (the Zufall Spitz of the Lombard and Tyrol Maps, 12,348 feet, *Kataster*, or 12,445 according to Lieutenant Payer).—On the 10th of June Melchior and I had crossed from the Baths of Rabbi to the Martell Thal by the Säent Joch, ascending *en route* the Hintere Roth Spitze (11,000 feet?), the view from which may take a high rank amongst mountain panoramas. The upper portion of the valley being as yet uninhabited, we were received and most hospitably entertained at a peasant's house a few minutes below the chapel of Maria Schmelz, and near that inhabited by Janiger, who shares with Pinggera of Sulden the reputation of being the best guide of the Orteler district.

Starting at 2.35 the next morning, we passed the Ober-Martell Alm in $1\frac{3}{4}$ hour, and in $2\frac{1}{2}$ more gained the lower portion of the Langen Ferner by its N. bank. Traversing diagonally the comparatively level portion of the glacier, we took to the slopes beneath the Cevedale, and without any special difficulty gained the side of the mountain which faces towards the Cevedale Pass and Königs Spitze, whose summit, proudly rearing itself behind the highest ridge of the glacier, had for a long time been a most conspicuous object.

We here deposited our packs on the snow, and, striking off to the left, made straight for the *sattel* between the two highest peaks of the Monte Cevedale. The second or more northerly peak was reached at 11.20 in four hours from the foot of the ice, and here a view of indescribable grandeur and extent burst upon us. The air was keen and clear, and Monte Rosa was exquisitely seen, whilst not even a solitary cloud disturbed the perfect purity of the sky. Returning to the Sattel to get out of the wind and have some food, we thence gained the highest peak (which I had already ascended last year) at 1.20, and quitted it at 1.30, reaching the Cevedale Pass at 2.30, and at 4.30 getting clear of the snow, after a long and stifling pull through it. An hour and a half's pleasant walk brought us to Sta. Catarina. From the more northerly summit of the Cevedale the Martell Thal is admirably seen, and forms a most exquisite feature in the view which is wanting in that from the highest peak, though the loss is perhaps there compensated for by the superb wall of snow and séracs extending from the Pizzo della Mare to the Tresero. I am inclined to believe that the difference in height between the two peaks of the Cevedale does not exceed thirty feet, but the superior altitude of the more southerly one is indisputable. I still more completely satisfied myself than on my previous visit of the perfect practicability of a pass from the Val della Mare into the Martell Thal,

Sulden Thal, or Val Forno, over the *sattel* between the two highest summits of the Cevedale, and believe that this must be the highest in Tyrol, as it cannot be less than 12,200 Eng. feet.

PASSAGE OF THE TRAFIOER JOCH (10,800 Eng. feet?) FROM VAL DEL ZEBRU TO TRAFIOI, between the S. Madatsch Spitze and the Schnee Glocke, with an ascent of the last-named peak (11,200 Eng. feet).—Mr. E. Howard and I, with Melchior and Jakob, strolled down on the afternoon of the 12th June, from Sta. Catarina to S. Gottardo ($1\frac{1}{2}$ hour), and then striking off up the Val del Zebru, halted (2 hours) for the night at the first châteaux above Prato Beghino, where we found very comfortable quarters, and were received with the utmost hospitality. The herdsman pointed out a gap in the great line of cliffs which bounds the lower part of the valley on the right, by which smugglers occasionally pass; and from its position near the termination of the valley, I imagine that the descent on the other side must be effected by one of the smaller lateral ravines which terminate near the lower portion of the Val di Vitelli.

Next morning (June 13), crossing the stream by a broken bridge, the centre of which actually lay in the water, we struck up the N. slopes, towards the right bank of the glacier which descends from the S. side of the Thurwieser Spitze, and then, instead of pursuing a direction which would ultimately have brought us to the Orteler Joch, kept more to the left till we joined the route which the Messrs. Buxton and I had followed in 1864, when descending from the Madatsch Joch to the head of Val del Zebru. A rocky ridge ran down on our left towards the valley, and is connected by a very narrow and inconspicuous snow *sattel*, with the range of the Thurwieser and Trafoier Spitzen, and over this *sattel*, exactly in the N.W. angle of the snow-field, we had passed on the previous occasion. In an evil moment, however, tempted by the idea of making a short cut, and moreover somewhat forgetful of the true topography, we struck off to our left too soon ($2\frac{1}{2}$ easy hours from the châteaux), and gained the crest of the above-mentioned ridge only to find that farther progress in that quarter would be very difficult and tedious, if not impossible. There was nothing for it but to console ourselves with breakfast and then turn back, and so, after losing nearly two hours, we found ourselves once more, about 7.45, at the point of divergence. A very short time now sufficed to place us on the *sattel*, from whence we proceeded upwards over gently undulating fields of névé (after traversing longitudinally a steepish slope of snow beneath the Trafoier Spitze) in the direction of the Madatsch Joch, and then, striking up to our right, gained at 9.30 the depression of the Trafoier Joch between the Schnee Glocke of Lieutenant Payer (the Ziegerpalfen Spitze of the older authorities) on the E. and the most southerly and elevated point of the Madatsch ridge on the W. The pass is slightly (perhaps 50 feet) lower than the Madatsch Joch, and, as far as our experience goes, presents no difficulties on either side, whilst the scenery is of the grandest character. Our W. neighbour, the S. Madatsch Spitze, might easily have been bagged; but hoping that in the opposite direction it

would be possible to secure the Trafoier Spitze as well as the Schnee Glocke, we quitted the col at 10.5, passed over a flattened dome of snow but slightly elevated above the general level of the ridge, traversed the crest of a sort of eastern twin Trafoier Joch, and at 10.30 gained the summit of the Schnee Glocke. On a rock a few feet lower on the S. side we found a bottle with the names of Herren Payer and Radinger, and the guides Pinggera and Thoni, and the date September 20, 1866, and thus learned that, if we had been anticipated, the prize of a first ascent had been won by worthy rivals.

We now found that to reach the Trafoier Spitze a considerable descent would first be necessary, and that, in fact, the peak ought to be attacked from a more north-easterly direction; so, as we were anxious to reach Trafoi in good time, we resolved to leave the nut for future cracking, quitted the Schnee Glocke at 11.30, and at 11.50 regained the col. The height of the latter must be close upon 10,800 Eng. feet, whilst that of the Schnee Glocke I should estimate at 11,200 feet, or about the same as the most southerly of the Madatsch Spitzen.

After luncheon we quitted the pass at 12.15, and after a series of glissades, which a more developed state of the crevasses at a later period of the year would probably render impossible, we quitted the ice at 1 for the slopes of the most northerly peak of the Madatsch ridge. Skirting round these to our left, we came upon a path which, however, we subsequently contrived to lose, and were thus involved in a rough and tiresome scramble across gullies and through thickets of that most abominable of all obstacles to progress, the *legföhre*. An hour and a quarter of this sort of thing, followed by a scramble over the huge terminal moraines of the Madatsch Glacier, and a short ascent on the further side, brought us to the Stelvio road, and in three-quarters of an hour more we reached Trafoi, and were warmly greeted by Frau Barbara Ortler.

ASCENT (THE SECOND BY TRAVELLERS) OF THE MONTE DELLA DISGRAZIA (12,074 Eng. feet), from the Foppa Alp in the Val Sasso Bisolo. —Early on the morning of the 16th June, Melchior, Jakob, and I quitted the excellent Hôtel de la Poste at Sondrio, and drove down the Valtelline as far as the solitary inn ($1\frac{3}{4}$ hour), near the village of Masino, just beyond the bridge across the torrent, and in two hours more reached Cattaeggio in Val Masino, opposite the entrance of the Val Sasso Bisolo. Here we dismissed the carriage, and struck up a path to the right, which leads at first through comparatively uninteresting scenery, until, after a somewhat rapid ascent, the valley widens, and a fine level alp is reached, separated from the highest level (Piano di Pietra Rossa) by an unusually lofty 'thalstufe,' where a branch valley comes in on the right from the S. side of the Corno Brucciato.

Climbing the wooded buttress by a winding path on the left side, we reached, in about two hours after leaving Cattaeggio, the beautiful alp of Foppa, most picturesquely situated, and possessing very superior accommodation to any of the *malghe* in the neighbouring Val di Mello. The herdsmen were very civil, and a long afternoon and evening were passed here most enjoyably—principally within, or in the immediate

neighbourhood of, the *malga*, as the weather had unfortunately changed for the worse, and a succession of snowstorms kept sweeping down upon us from the head of the valley. The Disgrazia being invisible till the remaining ascent to the S.W. end of the Piano di Pietra Rossa has been accomplished, we took advantage of a temporary lull to make a reconnaissance, and in about ten minutes came in sight of the mountain, whose summit, however, did not remain clear for many minutes together. Just beyond the edge of the rise are a number of scattered but tolerably substantial small stone huts, or 'baiti,' somewhat after the model of their Lilliputian relations of the Fellaria Alp, though of rather superior construction and dimensions. Any of these would afford fair quarters for the night; but as the cows were at the Foppa alp, and the difference in time was very trifling, we did not hesitate to abide by our first intention.

The next morning was not very favourable, and throughout the day we had to encounter a continuation of the snowstorms of the 16th, which sadly interfered with the distant view, and, coupled with a furious wind, made the ascent of the long arête of the Disgrazia less pleasant than would otherwise have been the case. Notwithstanding the great quantity of fresh snow, which covered up a great portion of the rocks, there was a good deal of hard ice, and a proportionate amount of step-cutting. The snow, masking the splintered rocks, rendered it sometimes difficult to ascertain whether the footing beneath was really solid or merely consisted of a column of air equal in height to the great northern precipice above the Ventina Glacier in Val Malenco. This was especially the case where it is necessary to descend slightly from the point reached (in 1865 or 1866?) by Herr Siber-Gysi and his guides Jäger and Grass of Pontresina, and cross a very attenuated *sattel* to the base of the final peak, which that gentleman considers to be unclimbable in this direction, and therefore coolly suggests that Messrs. Kennedy and Stephen, with Melchior for guide, must have come up in a fog, and have only *imagined* that they had gained the actual summit, whilst in reality standing on the tooth which was, in arctic language, his own 'farthest,' if not on some still lower eminence! Melchior was disposed to be half indignant and half amused at the notion, but was, I think, consoled by the reflection that, after all, 'der armer Herr' had at least to admit that *he*, knowingly and 'ohne Nebel,' had abandoned the prize when so nearly within his grasp, either from want of nerve or judgment, since lack of time could scarcely be in fairness alleged as an excuse for failure when success simply depended on an extra ten minutes' scramble. It is almost superfluous to add that no ground whatever exists for throwing the slightest doubt on the *complete* success of our countrymen, or the correctness of their belief and statement that they reached the highest point of all. They encountered no fog, and would have no difficulty in gaining the summit from the Pioda Sattel in the time stated by Mr. Kennedy.

It was 8.30 A.M. when we reached the actual summit (just 7½ hours, including halts, after leaving the *malga*), and as the space was confined, the distant view unsatisfactory, the temperature low, and the wind

blowing a perfect hurricane, we did not halt longer than was necessary to consign a record of our visit to the cairn erected by Jenni and Flury when (in 1866) they made the ascent alone, after depositing on the arête some distance below, a French gentleman whom they had conducted thus far, but who did not care to go any higher—why, I do not know. Ours was thus the third actual ascent of the highest peak of the mountain, but the second by travellers, since Herr Siber-Gysi, by his own admission, halted at a lower point.

At 8.45 we commenced the descent; at 10 reached the slopes of turf and débris below the glacier; halted till 11 for a hearty luncheon; arrived at the Foppa alp at 11.55; quitted it at 12.5 P.M.; reached Cattaeggio at 1.20, and the inn below Masino at 2.55—5 hours' walk from the summit of the Disgrazia.

PIZ VADRED.—*June 29.*—Messrs. Hartmann and Fitch ascended the Schwartzhorn from Durrenboden with Jenni to inspect Piz Vadred, and found that if the bergschrund, clearly and distinctly visible, should be practicable, the difficulty of the rocks might be surmounted. They slept in Durrenboden on June 30, and left July 1, about 4 o'clock A.M.

They found no difficulty whatever on the Scaletta Glacier, but a dense mist, which made its appearance at 7 o'clock, forced them to wait for more than one hour. When the clouds began to break, soon after 8 o'clock, the mist cleared away as suddenly as it had appeared, and Piz Vadred, with its N. and highest point, stood clear before them. The bergschrund proved to be not difficult, and they took to the rocks at once, after cutting about 30 steps. The climbing was the toughest piece of work they ever experienced, but Jenni and Stiefel, a man from the Dischma-Thal, were excellent. The barometer gave only 500 feet from the bergschrund to the highest point, but it took them more than two hours to arrive there; height, according to aneroid barometer, 10,700 feet. They saw the cairn built by Mr. Freshfield on the more E. peak, about 30 feet below them. The view was very fine, and the descent down the rocks very hard as they were very unsound, affording very unsafe hand and foothold. They arrived in Durrenboden at 4 P.M.

LA CHIARENA.—*July 25.*—Robert Spence Watson, with Alexander Flury, ascended this peak from the Forno Glacier, mistaking it for the 'Tresero,' which, from that glacier, it quite hides. It is much lower, and is generally taken as part of that mountain, although from most points of view it seems quite distinct. Time from the ice-fall on the Forno Glacier to the summit, 1½ hour.

La Chiarena is the saddle-shaped peak to the left of the 'Tresero' as you look up the valley from Sta. Catarina.

'**TUCKETT SPITZE.**'—*July 31.*—The same, accompanied by Mr. H. T. Mennell, left Trafoi at 5 A.M., and quitting the Stelvio road near the first ruined cantoniera, followed a footpath leading towards the Madatsch Glacier. They kept up the centre of the glacier, and after some difficulty with the séracs found themselves at the entrance of the snow

valley leading to the Madatsch Joch. Bearing to the left, they mounted the snow valley leading to the Tuckett Joch, and from its head climbed the Tuckett Spitze. They returned to the head of the Madatsch Glacier, and skirting the Video Spitze, ascended the Nagles Spitze, descending by the Nagles Spitze Glacier to Sta. Maria, which they reached at 2.30 P.M. This excursion (without the ascent of any peak) would make a short and pleasant route alternative to the Stelvio.

The following three expeditions were made by Mr. W. Cooledge, with Francois and Henri Devouassoud:—

CIMA DI TSCHINGEL (10,853').—Made the first ascent July 26th from the Baths of Masino. Leaving at 5.22 A.M. we reached the summit at 10.58 (being delayed by mist), and returned to the Baths at 1.52. Halts 1.45, including 42 minutes spent on the top. The way we took was by the head of the Val Porcellizza, then keeping to the left, the arête is gained after a rather stiff climb, whence it is easy to reach the highest peak.

CIMA DI ROSSO (11,024').—Made first ascent July 30th from the Maloya Inn. Leaving at 2.47 A.M., we proceeded to the head of the Farno Glacier; then turning to the left we went almost in a straight line through some crevasses to a col between the two highest summits. Turning to the right, we struck up over snow slopes, and reached the highest summit at 8.37, about 8 minutes from the col. We reached the Maloya Inn at 1.26 P.M. Halts 1.50, including an hour on the top. The view, which was very fine, extended from the Pointe des Ecrins to the Adamello, including the Bernese Oberland and the Monte Rosa group, Mont Blanc being hidden by the Cima del Largo.

PIZ ST. MICHAEL (10,371').—Made first ascent August 1st. We slept in some chalets above Tinzen. Leaving them at 3.58 A.M., we proceeded by grass slopes to the base of the southern face of the peak. Thence the ascent was made by couloirs of rock, occasionally taking to the arête which was too sharp and jagged to be followed altogether. About 8 A.M. a stone about a foot square became detached from the rocks above and fell on the rope between F. Devouassoud, who was leading (his brother having gone to reconnoitre in another direction), and myself, dragging Devouassoud off his feet. In his fall he pulled me down, and we rolled for some seconds, until Devouassoud luckily stopped us on the brink of a deep precipice. Our clothes were torn and we were bruised and cut a good deal, and Devouassoud's foot a little sprained; but we arrived at the top at 9.32. Being cloudy the view was not very fine. We arrived at the chalets on our descent at 4.5 P.M. by another way, much easier than the one by which we ascended. The summit is a level place amid broken rocks. The peak appeared perfectly perpendicular on all sides, except the one by which we ascended. We looked down on the top of the Tinzenhorn, which proves that the Piz St. Michael is the higher of the two. Halts 1.45, including 50 minutes on top.

The following notes are communicated by the Rev. T. G. Bonney:—

'MONTE TOFANA.'—Aug. 10.—This mountain has three peaks, nearly

of the same height. Two of them are near together on a line lying N.E. and S.W., and the third is some distance to the W. of the southernmost of these two, which is also the highest (10,721'). The third peak has several times been ascended; but the other two have only been reached by Herr Grohman. As the highest peak was reported to be inaccessible (owing to snow) I ascended the northernmost peak with a local guide named Angelo Demai, a forester; a capital crag-man and well up in the neighbouring mountains. We left Cortina d'Ampezzo at 4:55 (too late), and made for a gap in the wall of precipices facing that village, at the head of a slope of débris; this brought us into a short glen terminating in precipices above the Ampezzo road; from this we in a few minutes reached a sort of col, from which we looked into a deep mountain valley running a little E. of N., obviously once a glacier basis. Across this rose the twin peaks above a tremendous wall of precipices. We rounded the valley without difficulty, and passed under this wall until we were well beyond the northern peak, for which we were bound, then commenced to climb by the side of a couloir. Thus far all was easy, but the rest of the climb required much care and steadiness. After striking the arête, we turned to the left, and made our way sometimes along it, sometimes over the face of the cliff, first to the right and near the top to the left. There were several beds of ice with a coating of loose snow to be crossed; and the top of the peak was crowned by a snow arête. We reached the summit after about four hours and forty-five minutes' walking (quick). The view, though a little marred by gathering clouds, was magnificent. In the immediate neighbourhood were all the great dolomite peaks, and beyond them in a kind of quadrant from west to north-east were the Tyrol and Carinthian Alps, beginning with the Adamello, Orteler, Oetzthaler, and Stubayer groups, and passing along the Noric Alps to beyond the Gross Glockner; far away, a little to the south of east, rose the Terglou *massif*. The central peak appeared more dangerous to climb than the one we were on, and is so little higher that the view can hardly be better. The western peak, which was about level with us, cannot, I think, command one so good. The descent, hurried by an approaching storm, took three hours and thirty-five minutes. The first part of it to the foot of the precipice often required great care. I recommend this excursion to any experienced climber who visits the Dolomites, and believe that he will find that from Monte Tofana or from the Cristallo (which I am told is a rather more difficult business) the finest panoramic view in the district is to be obtained.

NOTE ON THE PIZ MORTERATSCH.—I ascended this peak on the 17th of July, by a route, part of which is, I think, not generally known. The road up the Roseg valley was followed till it crosses from the right to the left bank of the stream (a short hour from Pontresina). Turning off to the left up the mountain, a steep scramble brought us to a shepherd's hut; the route then lay diagonally up the mountain side, over a wilderness of fallen blocks, across a rocky amphitheatre, and along some easy snow slopes, till a kind of col was reached, in the ridge between the Roseg and Morteratsch valleys, to the S. of the Piz Chalcany. Hence we kept along the snow fields a little on the western

side of the ridge, till we came to the edge of a cliff above the Vadrel Misauna. Descending this easily, we circled round the head of that glacier, and worked up to the shoulder of Piz Tschierva, crossing which we soon joined the usual route, at the foot of the actual cone of the Piz Morteratsch. The great advantage of this course is, that excellent views of the surrounding country are obtained so easily in the excursion. We reached the summit in six hours and fifteen minutes' actual walking from Pontresina.

TÖDI DISTRICT.

July 9.—Messrs. Mansell, Thompson, Spankie, and Sowerby, accompanied by J. M. Trösch and A. Zgräggen, ascended the GROSS SPANORT (10,515 ft.). They left the chalets in the Erstfeld Thal (3,418 ft.), (where a most extortionate charge was made for the night's lodging) at 3.15 A.M. The Ober Fulen See (6,470 ft.) was reached by a path in two hours. The way then lay a little S. of W. to the point marked in the Federal map 2,374 m. From this the Spanorter Joch (9,823 feet) was reached at 9.20, over gently inclined fields of névé, laborious, however, from the fresh snow. The peak seemed most easy of access from this point. A very steep snow-slope led up to a piece of rockwork, troublesome enough, and made worse by the frozen snow which covered every ledge. At the top of these came another snow-slope, followed by another wall of rocks, which was mounted by each in succession, assisted by the rope. From this a few minutes' easy walking sufficed to gain the top at 11.25. This falls away precipitously on all sides but that by which the ascent was made. The view was much obscured by clouds. The actual summit is a rock about eight feet high, projecting on all sides from its base, on which, with some difficulty, they erected a stone man. Left at 12.25, and after passing both difficulties successfully by the aid of the rope, reached the Joch at 1.25. Here they turned nearly due E. to the head of the Gornerer Thal, entering it by a snow-slope which fell away with surprising rapidity from the level surface of the glacier. The snow was left at 3.45, and Amsteg reached at 6.45 by the village of Gurnellen. An aneroid observation gave the difference between the top and Amsteg 8,827 ft., making the height above the sea 10,540 ft., agreeing more nearly than usual with the survey.

July 11.—The same left the hotel in the Maderaner Thal about 5 A.M., and followed the path by the Alp Gnof to the Aelpli Firn. Over this a pass was reached called the KRUKELI (8,760 ft.), between the Gross and Klein Ruchi. A long snow-slope, which afforded some fine glissading, led down into the Brunni Thal. This is enclosed at its head by a magnificent wall of cliff and glacier, formed by the Gross Ruchi and Grosse Windgelle. These rise more than 6,000 feet above the spectator, and the view rivals the famous one from the Wengern Alp. Unterschächen was reached by the Brunni Thal about 1 P.M.

In an ascent of the Orteler made from Sulden, with Pinggera, Reinstadler, and others of that valley, the above party had great reason to

complain of the want of attention, almost amounting to incivility, shown by the guides. They probably are good mountaineers, but they took no pains to ensure the safety of the party, and some of them grumbled when asked to carry the rope. They roped the party in pairs with short ropes—an utterly useless measure—and only put on the long rope under great pressure. Travellers should take care to be provided with their own, and insist on its being used.

BERNESE OBERLAND.

GLETSCHERHORN.—*Aug. 15.*—Mr. Hornby with Chr. Lauener left the Faulberg hut at 2.30, and walked up easy snow-slopes toward the col between the Ebenefuh and Gletscherhorn, which looks down upon the Roththal. Shortly before reaching the col they turned to the right, crossed a bergschrund, and cut steps up an exceedingly steep slope of hard snow towards the last rocks of the Gletscherhorn. These consist of large rocky teeth protruding from a snow-arête, and have to be climbed or turned in succession till the highest point is reached. The last part of the ascent, viz. from the bergschrund to the summit, is all difficult, and requires care, but it is not very long. The top was reached at 7.45, and the Faulberg at 11.30 A.M.

GSPALTENHORN.—*Aug. 21.*—Messrs. Hornby and George, with Chr. Almer and Chr. Lauener, after bivouacking near the head of the Kienthal, reached without difficulty, in about 2½ hours' steep walking, the highest notch in the ridge of the Gspaltenhörner, N.W. of the highest peak, between it and the Büttlassen. The only way thence to the summit, some 800 or 900 feet above, was by cutting steps on the extremely steep ice-slope which forms the face of the mountain towards Mürren—a task which would have cost six or seven hours of hard work. This they thought unreasonable to inflict on the guides, and they therefore abandoned the attempt. The Gspaltenhorn was attempted earlier in the season from the Sefinenthal, by a Swiss gentleman with Lauterbrunnen guides, who succeeded in reaching the second peak, E. of the highest, which latter is absolutely inaccessible from that side, as well as by way of the arête leading towards the Gamchi Lücke. The peak is doubtless accessible by the route above described, but it will entail an expenditure of time and labour entirely disproportioned to its importance, to say nothing of serious danger, as the few rocks which project through the steep ice-slope are so crumbling as to give very precarious footing.

It may also be worth mentioning that two ascents of the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp have been made, the first by Mr. G. E. Foster, the second by M. von Fellenberg.

MONTE ROSA DISTRICT.

JÄGERHORN, &c.—*July 17.*—Messrs. C. E. Mathews and Morshead, with Christian Almer and A. Maurer, ascended the Pizzo Bianco on the

16th of July to inspect the east face of Monte Rosa, and find, if possible, a route from Macugnaga to the summit. In this they were disappointed, but their attention was called to a slight depression in the ridge of Monte Rosa between the Nord End and a small but interesting peak called the Jägerhorn. They determined to effect a passage from Macugnaga to Zermatt by this route.

Leaving Macugnaga before 2 o'clock on the morning of the 17th, they walked through the fields to the top of the Belvedere, gaining the waterfall at the foot of the old Weiss Thor at 4.25. Walking up the débris to the left, they reached a rocky col overlooking the Filar Glacier at 5.20; crossed this glacier in an oblique direction, and skirting the rocks to its left, and rapidly mounting, they reached the séracs at the very head of the Filar Glacier at 7.20. From this point the rockwork was in many places very severe, but Almer landed them at the summit of the Jägerhorn at 12.30, after 10½ hours of very hard climbing. Descending easily into the little col they had seen from the Pizzo Bianco, they found themselves as nearly as possible at the same height as the Alphubel, or 13,800 feet. The Cima de Jazi was far below. From the summit of the Col, which commands magnificent views of the whole eastern face of Monte Rosa, the party descended easily to the Riffel in about 3½ hours.

LYSKAMM FROM GRESSONAY. — On the 18th the same party crossed the Schwarz Thor, and the same day crossed the Betta Furka to the Lys Glacier, with the intention of ascending the Lyskamm from the side of Gressonay. They slept in a comfortable chalet between the top of the Betta Furka and the Lys Glacier; and leaving the chalet at 2.45 on the 19th, they climbed the rocks to the left; and then, bearing to the right, after two hours' easy climbing, found themselves on a range of rocks overlooking the Glacier of Felik. Here they descended a little, and crossed the basin of the glacier, and again mounting, kept to the right, and straight towards the Lyskamm. At 6.10 they arrived at the open glacier nearly at the foot of the peak, and saw no difficulty between them and the summit. Clouds then began to settle on the mountain, and as a fierce wind was blowing, Almer would not go on; so, cutting steps up the ice-wall on the left, they gained the arête, descended to the top of the Feliks Joch, and arrived at Zermatt at half-past four.

Messrs. Mathews and Morshead were convinced that the best ascent of the Lyskamm was from the side of Gressonay; so, on the following Monday, they left the Riffel exactly at midnight, the night being superb, and the moon nearly full. At a few minutes past 5 they reached the summit of the Feliks Joch, overlooking the Glacier de Lys. Almer cut 307 steps down the south side of the col, and the party regained their track of the previous Friday. Keeping to the right, they reached the base of the final peak, and mounted by the rocks running due south, which form the real Gressonay arête of the Lyskamm. At 10.5 they were on the summit, under a cloudless sky. They descended to the Lys Joch, which they reached at 1.45, arriving at the Riffel at 6, and after a short halt reaching Zermatt soon after 7, after a laborious but delightful excursion. They believe that under favourable

circumstances the ascent of the Lyskamm can be made from the châteaux at the foot of the Lys Glacier in 8 hours at most, and the excursion, which is of the highest order, presents no real difficulties to a well-trained mountaineer.

Note.—Christian Almer, on a subsequent visit to the same region, when his party were prevented by bad weather from making any long expeditions, pointed out the perfect feasibility of ascending the Lyskamm in one day from the inn at the head of the Val d'AYas, crossing the stony ridge E. of that valley, and so reaching the snow-fields on the Italian side of the Feliks Joch.—H. B. G.

MATTERHORN.—On August 14, Mr. Grove, with the guides Carrel, Bic, and Salomon Meynet, ascended the Matterhorn by the route discovered by those guides in July 1865, of which an account, extracted from the *Feuille d'Aoste*, is given in the *Alpine Journal*, vol. ii. p. 237.

On September 13, a party from Val Tournanche, none of whom had previously been to the summit, one of them a young woman, the daughter of J. B. Carrel, reached the base of the 'dernier mamelon,' from which point previous climbers had taken to the difficult ledge on the W. face known as the corridor. Here all the party halted except Joseph and Pierre Maquignaz, who explored the rocks of the S. arête, and after some time succeeded in discovering a comparatively short and easy route to the summit. In returning they fixed a Manilla cord 15 yards long in the only difficult place of the final ascent. On the 1st of October, Mr. W. Leighton Jordan, who had previously made two attempts on the Swiss side of the Matterhorn, defeated by bad weather, ascended with the brothers Maquignaz to the *cabane*, which is at a height of 4,134 mètres. Starting next morning at 6, they reached the top before 10, and returned after a long halt on the summit in three hours to the *cabane*, whence they took but four hours next morning to descend to Breuil.

MONT COLLON.—*July 31.*—George Edward Foster, with Hans Baumann of Grindelwald, and Johann Kronig of Zermatt, made the first ascent of the Mont Collon. 'Left the inn at Arolla at 3.45, and crossed the Col de Collon to a point a little beyond where it meets the arête of the mountain, then struck up a series of rock couloirs, which ultimately led us to the arête by which we reached the summit at 10.30. The view was exceedingly fine. As the lower parts of the rocks were very difficult, we contrived to cross the chasm, by which we were turned back last year and descended by that route, which will probably be found the easiest in any future ascent. We returned to the inn about 4.'

Notes and Variations of Old Routes.

ZERMATT TO ALAGNA.—C. C. Tucker, D. W. Freshfield, and T. H. Carson reached the top of the Lys Joch in a thick fog. Having determined to descend to Alagna, they were lucky enough to discover a route which must be considerably shorter and pleasanter than that taken by Mr. F. N. Smith last year. Descending into the Indren Glacier by the same couloir as their predecessors, they struck straight across the *névé* to the rocks which divide it from the Embours Glacier. A practicable gully was soon found, and a series of glissades brought the party into the head

of the Embours Thal. Near some miners' huts a path (marked in Mr. Reilly's map) leads over a brow to the chalets of Sopra in Val d'Ollen, and so to Alagna, which was reached in 4 hours from the Col. Guides, Daniel Balley and P. Michel.

MISCHABEL JOCH.—The same party, with F. Andermatten in place of P. Michel, left Saas for the Mischabel Joch. Owing to the amount of snow and scarcity of crevasses early this season, they were able to take a straight line from half-way up the Langefluh to the Col (6½ hours). In descending the Weingarten Glacier, they were led by chamois-tracks to the rocks on the left of the ice-fall, at a point where the descent seemed perfectly easy. A short climb led down to the lower glacier, and the Täsch Alp was reached in 2 hours; Zermatt, in 3 hours 45 minutes from the Col. By the discovery of a way down the rocks, the ice-fall of the Weingarten Glacier, the chief difficulty of the pass, is entirely avoided.

SCHWARZ THOR.—Christian Almer, with Messrs. George and Mortimer, found a very short and easy way up this pass from the Val d'Ayas by going a long way to the left from the moraine between the Ayas and Verra Glaciers, ascending very little, and thence doubling back under the Breithorn to the Col, thus forming a gigantic zigzag. The total ascent by this route, in a thick fog, took less than 5 hours.

The same party crossed the Col d'Ollen into the Lys Thal, intending to ascend the Lyskamm—a purpose frustrated by the weather. Having no exact local knowledge, they kept round the spur which forms the E. boundary of the Lys Glacier, instead of crossing the gap in it just opposite the Col d'Ollen, leading direct to Cour de Lys. By this course they reached, in 2¼ hours, a chalet colony about half an hour below the foot of the Lys Glacier, which gave admirable accommodation. These chalets are nearly an hour below Cour de Lys, and therefore that distance farther from the Lys Joch, but are almost equally well placed for the Feliks Joch or ascent of the Lyskamm, for which the ascent must be made by the right bank of the Lys Glacier.

GRAIAN ALPS.

COL DI TELLECCIO.—July 5.—Mr. C. E. Mathews and Mr. F. Morshead left Cogne, intending to cross the Col di Telleccio, ascending the Tour du Grand St.-Pierre *en route*. The weather was so unsettled that they did not start till nearly six. The first three hours' walking is along the easy hunting-road which leads from Cogne to the foot of the Glacier of Valleiglia, in the valley of that name. Taking to the ice, they reached the summit at 12.15, unfortunately too late to try the Tour, which seemed to them quite practicable from the summit of the Telleccio. The Combe di Telleccio, between the summit of the pass and Locarno, is immensely beautiful, but very laborious, and the accommodation at Locarno as bad as it can be. The travellers took from fourteen to fifteen hours for the expedition, including halts. This pass has, it is believed, been made by Mr. Tuckett, but no record of it has yet been published.

COL DE MONT CORVÉ.—July 8.—They left the Stabilimento at Ceresole

at 2 o'clock, intending to make a new pass from Ceresole to the head of the Val Savaranche. Having walked for four hours, partly along the hunting-path above Ceresole and partly along Alpine pastures and débris, they found themselves at the head of the lateral valley that joins the Val d'Orca below Ceresole. They then gained a little bit of glacier, which is all that is left of the Glacier of Tetre, on the south side of the chain. At 9.30 they gained the ridge, and found themselves overlooking the Val Savaranche, not, however, from what seems the main col from the side of the Val Savaranche, but a col far higher, and immediately on the left of the Paradis. Keeping to the left, down the Glacier of Mont Corvé, they reached Pont at 12.30, after a most delightful excursion, having had the great good fortune to see a magnificent bouquetin on the moraine of the glacier.

It is almost impossible from the side of Ceresole to recognise the three cols which undoubtedly exist between that village and the Val Savaranche. From the N. side, however, they are easily distinguishable. One is between the Paradis and the Cima di Charforon (the col above described); the second is more to the W., between the Cima di Charforon and La Cocagna, and is not yet crossed; the third and most western is between the last-named summit and the Becca di Merlet (crossed this year by Mr. Freshfield's party), which is undoubtedly the shortest passage by glacier from Ceresole to Pont. By the two first cols the traveller reaches the Val Savaranche by the Glacier of Mont Corvé, but the last brings him on to that of Grand Tetre.

TOUR DU GRAND ST. PIERRE (12,069').—*July 14.*—J. H. Backhouse, D. W. Freshfield, C. C. Tucker, and T. H. Carson, with D. Balley, M. Payot, and a Chamouni porter, left Aosta on Tuesday, and walked up to the head of the Combe di Valleiglia ($2\frac{1}{2}$ hours above Cogne), where they bivouacked. Next morning they reached the Col di Telleccio in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours. After a short halt they set to work on the Tour du Grand St. Pierre, which rises immediately W. of the col. Several snow couloirs run up to the northern arête. Choosing the nearest but one to the peak, they mounted partly by the couloir, partly by the rocks on its right, and gained the ridge without any real difficulty. The only access to the final peak seemed to be by the arête. After cutting steps up a steep snowbank, they scrambled up a narrow ridge of smooth granite to the top ($2\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the col). The view of the Italian plains was magnificent and unusually clear. The descent of the final rocks proved tiresome, and required both time and care. The return to Cogne occupied six hours.

COL DU GRAND TETRET.—*July 20.*—The same party (without the porter) after crossing the Col de Grancrou and resting a day at Ceresole, started from the Stabilimento delle Acque to attempt to discover a direct pass to Val Savaranche *viâ* the Glacier du Grand Tetre. They ascended the valley as far as the village of Ceresole, where they turned up a faint track which brought them, after a steep pull, to the head of a glen, the stream of which joins the Orco close to the village. In four hours an apparent col was reached; it proved, however, to lead into another branch of the Val d'Orco. The wall of rocks on the

left, over which a way had to be found, looked somewhat formidable, but by descending some 300 feet into the glen beneath, they found a promising point of attack, and gained the true col after a long but not difficult climb (6 hours). The path lies close to the base of the Cocagna, and between that peak and the Becca di Merlet. The descent of the Glacier du Grand Tetre is perfectly simple. After disturbing a herd of thirty-six chamois, and finding the bones and horns of a bouquetin, the party left the glacier for its left bank, and reached Pont in $1\frac{1}{4}$ hour, Val Savaranche in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the col.

MONT BLANC DISTRICT.

COL DE LA TOUR RONDE (12,600 ft.). ASCENT OF LA TOUR RONDE.—*July 22.*—D. W. Freshfield, C. C. Tucker, J. H. Backhouse, and T. H. Carson, with D. Balley and M. Payot, started from Courmayeur to make a new pass connecting the Brenva with the Glacier du Géant.

For $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours their route was the same as that of the party which ascended Mont Blanc from this side. A bluff of rock divides the upper Brenva Glacier into two branches. The eastern one seemed to offer the most direct route. After some trouble with crevasses, the snow-basin at its head was reached. Thence a very long, and in some parts steep, slope of rock and ice had to be climbed before the watershed was gained on the eastern ridge of La Tour Ronde, the top of which was bagged by a further ascent of 200 ft.

From its position this peak commands a view of Mont Blanc, Mont Peteret, and the Brenva, which can scarcely be surpassed for grandeur in the Alps.

Descending the ridge to a point somewhat lower than that at which they had struck it, the party worked down a rock-chimney, and soon got on easy crags, by which the névé of the Glacier du Géant was reached in one hour from the peak. They then crossed to the hut near the Aiguille du Midi (2 hrs. 40 min.), which was found full of snow. There they spent an excessively cold night to no purpose, as weather obliged them to go down next morning to the Montanvert (3 hrs. 45 min.). Fifteen hours' actual walking will probably suffice future travellers by this pass from Courmayeur to Chamouni—nine hours up, six hours down.

GRANDES JORASSES.—*September 9.*—Messrs. George and Mortimer, with Christian Almer and his son, made the second ascent of this mountain, intending to reach the eastern peak, which is slightly higher than that climbed by Mr. Whymper in 1865 with Almer. 'The days being short, we bivouacked on the mountain side, about 9,000 ft. up, and followed Mr. Whymper's route, though encountering far greater difficulties, until some way up the final steep rocky ridge leading up to his peak. Thence we tried to strike across the extremely steep snow-curtain between it and the other peak, but we were in thick mist, kept too much up, and eventually struck the ridge joining the two summits to the left of the only deep gap in it. As it was then 2 p.m., it was hopeless to persevere in our original purpose, so we followed the ridge

to Mr. Whymper's flagstaff, and descended thence. If there be no other way to the highest summit, it will not be easily climbed, for the upper curtain could not safely be traversed unless the snow were in perfect order; but Mr. Whymper's peak can be reached at any time by a competent guide.'

COL DE CHARDONNET.—*September 13.*—The same party took rather a new route, which renders this always grand pass one of the most interesting walks in the Alps. 'Having descended on the head of the Salena Glacier, we struck up sharply to the left, passed through a very narrow gap (the real *Fenêtre de Salena*) on to the head of the Tour Glacier, skirted it to the Col du Tour, and thence descended by the familiar route of the Trient and Orny névé to Orsières. Mr. Reilly's original route led straight to the Trient snowfield, after descending the Salena Glacier some way, passing E. of the point where the ridge dividing the Tour and Trient snowfields articulates into the boundary ridge of the Salena Glacier. Our route therefore showed us, in addition to the other scenery of the pass, the basin of the Tour, and the startling view of the Oberland, &c., obtained on reaching the Col du Tour; and it is not a bit longer, on the testimony of Almer, who had been the other way with Mr. Moore.'

The same pass was taken a few days earlier (Sept. 2), reversely, by Messrs. F. and W. Pollock. They started from the Col de Balme, ascended the glacier up to the Col du Tour, and then turning south reached the Salena, apparently by the same gap, returning to Chamonix by the Col du Chardonnet. Time, exclusive of halts, 10½ hours. Guide, Francois Couette (Baguette).

NOTES AND QUERIES.

Le Club Alpin Suisse a publié en langue allemande, depuis 1864, trois volumes de son annuaire intitulé 'Jahrbuch des schweizerischen Alpenclubs' (chez Georg, libraire, Bâle et Genève).

Malheureusement, le nombre de ceux de nos amis sachant l'Allemand est restreint, et cette excellente publication est restée lettre close, soit pour eux, soit pour les amateurs des Alpes en France et en Italie. Ils apprendront donc avec plaisir, que les sections romandes du Club Suisse viennent d'entreprendre la traduction française du prochain Jahrbuch pour 1868 (le quatrième en Allemand).

Ce volume formera ainsi la première année de l'édition française, et il renfermera les mêmes cartes et les mêmes illustrations que l'édition allemande; c'est aussi M. Georg qui le publiera. Nous espérons que le public voudra bien lui faire un accueil aussi favorable qu'à ses aînés, dont le premier volume est devenu fort rare, et dont deux éditions du second se sont rapidement écoulées.

Voici un court résumé de son contenu, tel qu'il nous est communiqué par le comité de traduction genevois.

<i>Auteurs.</i>	<i>Titres.</i>
MM. Weilenmann . . .	Courses dans le Valais
„ Hoffmann et Merian . .	Pointe de la Salle
„ Hoffmann et Burkhardt	Mont Fort, Mont Pleureur, Mont Gelé et Serpentine