

so-called guide became violently indignant when 10 francs were offered to him, and, finally, not only went off declaring he would call in the police, but actually returned with them, only, however, to have the comfort of hearing officially that he was a fool for his pains, and that the pay was ample, which I certainly thought was the case considering that he had practically been of very little use to us, had carried nothing whatever, had constantly ridden whilst one or both of us walked, and had fully shared our provisions and wine, though not successful in the final ascent of the mountain. The little discord, however, soon subsided, for the Greek, like his native seas, quickly lashes himself into fury, and as suddenly sinks into calm. And now, looking back on the bright memories of our five weeks' wanderings in the Morea, Central Greece, and Eubœa, so rich and varied in incident and charm, I can recall no day which stands out more vividly than that which we spent in roaming over the uplands and through the pine woods, and gazing spell-bound from the topmost crest, of lordly Taygetus.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1877.

Dauphiné District.

THE WESTERN PEAK OF THE MEIJE.—We owe to Mr. Coolidge the following particulars, derived from a letter of M. Jullien, the secretary of the Société des Touristes du Dauphiné. M. Boileau de Castelnau bivouacked, on the night of August 15, under a great boulder (known as the 'Hôtel du Châtelieret') on the 'oasis,' in the Vallon des Etançons. Starting next morning with Pierre Gaspard, and the latter's son Pierre (both of S. Christophe), and J. B. Rodier, of La Bérarde, he mounted by M. Duhamel's route (described by that gentleman in the 'Annuaire du Club Alpin français,' 1876, pp. 336-338, i.e. by the west side of the great south buttress; but kept farther to the left, and thus gained the Glacier du Doigt. The last rocks were climbed, it is believed, by the slope facing La Grave. The summit was reached at 3 p.m., and two stonemen built on it. The descent was excessively difficult. J. B. Rodier, who had been left on the way up, was rejoined, but night overtook the party a short distance above the spot where their provisions had been left. The party was obliged to halt on a narrow ledge of rock, exposed to a violent snow and hail storm. Next day they returned to La Bérarde, and on the 18th crossed the Col de la Temple to rejoin a large party of the French Alpine Club and Société des Touristes, assembled for the purpose of inaugurating the Refuge Cézanne, on the Pré de Madame Carle. The following is the account sent by M. Boileau de Castelnau himself to his own Club:—

‘Le 10 août, après une tentative par les Étançons, à la suite de laquelle j'avais conçu l'espérance d'atteindre le glacier du Doigt, j'effectuai la première ascension de la Meije. L'ascension fut extrêmement difficile d'un bout à l'autre. Presque partout très-dangereuse, elle le devint encore plus à la descente. Les rochers par lesquels nous avons atteint le petit glacier supérieur de la Meije, ou glacier du Doigt, et les derniers mètres de l'ascension sont d'une difficulté inouïe. Il suffira de dire que nous restâmes près de deux heures à 7 ou 8 mètr. du sommet sans pouvoir y parvenir, et peu s'en fallut que nous ne battîmes en retraite à cet endroit. Le jour nous manqua tout-à-fait à la descente, au milieu du passage le plus difficile. Il fallut se résigner à passer la nuit à une altitude de 3,650 mètr. environ, heureux, le lendemain, de n'avoir aucun membre gelé après une nuit véritablement terrible.

‘Le lendemain nous redescendîmes à la Bérarde par un temps affreux, mais nous y arrivâmes sans accident, c'était le point capital.’

PIC SANS NOM (Crête du Pelvoux) (3,915 mètres), *July 10.*—Messrs. Colgrove and R. Pendlebury, with Gabriel and Josef Spechtenhauser, made the first ascent of this peak. Starting from the Cabane des Bergers or Soureillan, the usual Pelvoux bivouac, they followed the Pelvoux route to the Glacier du Clot de l'Homme. After crossing the glacier, they mounted underneath the crags of the Pelvoux to the glacier which fills the space between the Pelvoux and the Pic sans Nom. This latter was attacked about the middle of its face by a narrow, and in part difficult, couloir, which at the top merges into the general face of the mountain. After reaching the top of the couloir they mounted straight up, reaching the summit ridge somewhat to the west of the top of the mountain, and followed the ridge to the top. Whole time from Soureillan about 7 hrs. After building a cairn on the top, the party descended the same way, and reached Ville Valloise by nightfall.

GRAND PIC DE BELLEDONNE, *July 17.*—Mr. R. Pendlebury, with Gabriel and Josef Spechtenhauser, having driven from Bourg d'Oisans to Allemont, ascended this peak by the usual route. In descending, Mr. Pendlebury and Gabriel turned to the left after passing the lower of the two chains which are very unnecessarily placed on the peak, and, passing down some steepish rocks and a narrow rock couloir, arrived without much difficulty on the glacier to the west of the mountain. The foot of the glacier was reached in 55 mins. from the top of the mountain. A charming walk leads down to the railway station at Brignoud, on the Grenoble and Chambéry line, which was reached in 4 hrs. from the summit. The usual way of descending the mountain on this side seems to involve a considerable détour. The descent described above will be useful, by enabling a traveller to reach Chambéry or Aix in one day from Bourg, and to take the top of the Grand Pic by the way, as the whole distance between these two places need take little more than 12 hrs.

ROCHER BADON (c. 9,500 ft.), *June 14.*—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his son Christian, starting from S. Colomban des Villards, in the Combe du Glandon, crossed the Col de Brabant to the head of

the Combe de Madame. They then mounted the Glacier de Madame, with the intention of ascending the Rocher Blanc, but a mist coming on, they reached by mistake a peak rather more to the north, which is locally known as the Rocher Badon. (This must be carefully distinguished from the peak of the same name to the south of Rocher Blanc, climbed in 1876 by M. Bayle's party.) No traces of a previous ascent were found. The descent to the Cabane of the Société des Touristes, near the Lac du Cos, was effected without difficulty in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr. The Sept Laux were still completely frozen over.

GRAND PIC DE BELLEDONNE (c. 3,000 mètres=9,843 ft.), *June 16.*—The same party, starting from the Refuge of the Société des Touristes, ascended this peak without the slightest difficulty, in just over $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. walking, descending in $1\frac{1}{4}$ hr. The view was most extensive. It is believed that this peak (till lately regarded as inaccessible) had not been before reached by an English party.

GRANDES ROUSSES, SOUTH PEAK (3,473 mètres=11,395 ft.), *June 19.* The same party, starting from the highest hut above Huez, near Bourg d'Oisans, reached by the glacier to the west, the 'Sommet 3' (3,332 mètres) of this group in little over 4 hrs. walking, whence 20 min. sufficed to gain the 'Sommet Sud,' which had only been ascended previously by Mr. C. Oakley in 1864, and M. Bayle in 1874 and 1876. Clouds greatly interfered with the view from the peak, which is certainly lower than the Sommet Nord or Pic de l'Etendard. The party then followed M. Bayle's route by the 'Sommet 3' (La Pyramide) to the Pic Blanc, and effected a new descent to Bourg d'Oisans by the Glacier de Sarennes, the torrent of the same name, Le Gua and Huez. The descent from the Sommet Sud to Bourg d'Oisans occupied just over 6 hrs. walking.

ROCHER DE ROCHAIL (3,070 mètres=10,073 ft.). COL DE ROCHAIL (c. 10,000 ft.). COL DE LA ROUMÉIOU. *June 21.*—The same party made the first known exploration of the Glaciers de Villard Eymond, above Bourg d'Oisans. Starting from the hut erroneously called Cabane du Loson, above Villard Eymond, they mounted over the glacier (which was covered with snow), without meeting any difficulty, to a depression to NW. of the highest peak of the Rocher de Rochail, which was reached in less than 3 hrs. from the starting point. The first ascent of the Rocher de Rochail was made in a few minutes from the pass. (A somewhat higher point beyond does not seem to belong properly to this group, but to the range forming the west boundary of the Combe de Lovitel.) Returning to the pass, the party descended by slopes of snow towards the frozen Lac du Vallon, and then striking up to the left gained, in $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. from the Col de Rochail, the ridge overlooking the Combe du Tourot. In $2\frac{1}{4}$ hours more the party circled round the head of this valley, crossed a projecting buttress of the Rocher de la Selle, and gained the Col de la Rouméiou (cf. Joanne, 'Jura et Alpes françaises,' p. 867), between the Tête de Chétives and the Signal de Lovitel, at the head of the Combe de la Fayolle, above the two Lacs Labarre. The party descended through the latter glen, taking an ill-marked path on the left bank of the stream, which brought them to Valsenestre in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr. from the col, having come nearly in a

straight line from Bourg d'Oisans, though by a somewhat wearisome route.

COL D'AILLOT (2,875 mètres = 9,433 feet), *June 24.*—The same party went from Valsenestre to Le Désert en Val Jouffrey by this pass, which, although marked on the map, appears to have been hitherto totally neglected by travellers. As seen from Valsenestre, it is the lowest point in the ridge between the Glaciers de la Haute Pisse and the Aiguille des Marmes. It was reached in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. without any difficulty, the last portion of the ascent being made by a rocky ridge between two couloirs filled with snow, either of which may be ascended at pleasure. A very fine view of the magnificent NW. face of the Pic d'Olan was gained from the summit of the pass. The descent was made through a snow-filled gully in the rocks, then on the left bank of the stream, finally crossing to the right bank, and turning sharply to the right along the rocky slopes, known as La Roche. Le Désert was reached in $3\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. from the pass, some time being lost in searching for the way.

CIME DU VALLON (3,418 mètres = 11,214 feet), *June 26.*—The same party, starting from a bivouac at the head of the Val Jouffrey, crossed the Col d'Olan to the Glacier des Sellettes, and then remounted to the Col des Sellettes. (The glacier was practically impassable this year, so that the ascent to the latter col was made by a steep ridge of rocks far away to the right.) Thence the first ascent of the Cime du Vallon was made in thirty-five minutes by the western ridge. The party then explored the long snow cornice which forms the summit, and mounted a slightly lower point, overlooking the Col de la Muande, which, from the east side, assumes the appearance of a sharp rocky peak. Returning to the pass, they descended by their last year's route to La Chapelle en Godemar.

PIC D'OLAN (3,573 mètres = 11,723 feet), *June 29.*—The same party, starting from a bivouac in the Combe du Clot, about 3 hrs. from La Chapelle, in $5\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. attained the point of the Pic d'Olan, reached for the first time by Mr. Pendlebury in 1875, there being very much less snow than on their attempt last year. Beyond this a peak was seen more to the N., which appeared to be higher (and which had been concealed from the party of 1875 by clouds). This was reached for the first time in 55 min., by a difficult descent and reascent, when the point just left appeared in turn the highest. According to the reading of a somewhat untrustworthy (judging from its performances on other occasions) aneroid barometer, the peak first gained is slightly the highest, but since, when seen from all other points, the furthest peak claims supremacy, and as from it the entire range of Mont Blanc was seen, which this point itself entirely concealed when the party was on the peak first gained, the question of the relative height of these two summits may be treated as doubtful, until they have been carefully measured by a competent person. The day was cloudless, and the view surpassed all expectations. La Chapelle was regained that evening by the same route. It is possible that later in the season, when there is little snow on the rocks, the further peak may be reached by the north face from the Glacier des Sellettes. Another possible route would be from the NW. angle of the Combe Froide up the great snow

couloir which leads up to the deep cleft between what have been called the first gained and the furthest summits. Cairns were built on all the summits, the tin box left by Mr. Pendlebury being firmly inserted in that built on the summit first gained.

SIRAC (3,438 mètres = 11,280 feet), *July 2.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak, of which no previous ascent was known either at La Chapelle or at Le Clot, and which was commonly believed to be inaccessible. Starting from the shepherd's hut in the Combe de Vallonpierre (about $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. above Le Clot in Val Godemar), the party mounted towards the Col de Vallonpierre, keeping always, however, rather to the left, close under Sirac. Rounding a buttress, they gained the glacier to SW. of the peak, of which a small part is seen from the hut. At the head of this there were two summits. The party unfortunately selected that to the right, which was gained after a very difficult climb along the SW. arête, and proved much lower than that to the left. Bad weather now came on; but just as it seemed hopeless to persevere, the rocks on the right hand, or east side of the arête, became comparatively easy, and the highest summit was attained. This consists of a long ridge rising into eminences at either end and in the centre. Cairns were built on all, as it was uncertain which was the highest, though the westernmost has probably the best claim to that honour. Luckily the clouds cleared away sufficiently to show the party that they had reached the true summit. The descent was effected by a shorter and more direct way. Retracing their steps for a few minutes along the broken rocks of the east side of the arête, the party then struck straight up, and in 35 min. from the summit gained a notch in the arête overlooking the glacier already mentioned. Descending a steep face of rock, and then bearing to the right, they reached a conspicuous snow couloir, nearly under the highest peak, which took them to the glacier in 20 min. from the notch. In 25 min. more they had cleared the glacier, and, following the morning's route, gained the hut in $1\frac{1}{4}$ hr. more, in a furious storm. Total of descent from summit 2.35. The stonemen on the top were later plainly seen from the hut and from Le Clot. Future travellers are recommended to start from the tolerable quarters at Le Clot (chez Jourdan), whence the whole expedition should not take more than 10 or 11 hrs. walking. Sirac is the peak figured by Mr. Bonney in his 'Sketches' (Plate I. (ii.)) under the name of the Pic Bonvoisin.

COL LU LOUP (3,112 mètres = 10,210 feet), *July 4.*—The same party crossed this very fine but almost unknown pass from the hut mentioned above to Ville Vallouise. There is no difficulty on either side. The times taken (actual walking) were: from hut to glacier, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.; to col, 50 min.; total ascent, 4 hrs. 20 min. Off glacier, 30 min.; to shepherd's hut on left bank of Torrent de la Selle, 1 hr. 20 min.; to Entraigues, 1 hr.; to Vallouise, 1 hr. 50 min.; total descent, 4 hrs. 40 min.

CRÊTE DE L'ENCULA (3,779 mètres = 12,400 feet); COL DE L'ENCULA (c. 3,400 mètres = 11,155 feet), *July 7.*—The same party, starting from a bivouac on the slopes between the Glacier Noir and Glacier Blanc, made the first ascent of the highest point of the Crête de

l'Encula, that marked 3,779 mètres in the maps. Following the ordinary route of the Col des Écrins as far as the Glacier de *l'Encula*, they then struck up to the left towards a well-marked depression (the second counting from the *Pointe des Écrins*). Mounting some way along a small glacier, they then took to the SW. arête, which was followed to the top—reached in 2 hrs. from Glacier de *l'Encula*—there being some little difficulty in scaling the last pinnacle. Several points in the range stretching up towards the Écrins appeared to surpass this peak in height, which is exactly in the position assigned to it on the map, and, according to M. Guillemin ('3^{me} Annuaire du C. A. F.,' p. 255), is known locally as *La Grande Sagne*. Following the same route on the descent, when the party reached the small glacier they kept at a level to the depression mentioned above, which was reached in 1 hr. from the top of the peak. A steep snow couloir led, in 25 min., to a small glacier, which lies so deep among the rocks that it is not marked on any map (being almost invisible from every point of view), and the Glacier Noir was reached in 30 min. more—altogether not an hour from the col. When the snow is in good condition this pass offers an agreeable alternative to the circuitous descent from the Glacier Blanc by the *Hôtel Tuckett*. Three-quarters of an hour only are required to reach the *Pré de Madame Carle* from the spot where the Glacier Noir is attained—that is not quite 1¼ hr. from the col. It is proposed to name this pass Col de *l'Encula*. The small glacier is seen in the view given in Mr. Bonney's 'Sketches,' Plate III.

CRÊTE DES BŒUFS ROUGES (3,454 mètres = 11,333 feet), July 9.—The same party made the first ascent of the highest point of this range. Having reached the Col du Sélé from the chalets of *Ailefroide*, they kept along steep snow slopes above the Glacier du Sélé, and finally took to the N. arête of the peak, which was followed more or less to the summit—gained in 1 hr. 25 min. from the col. Some parts of the ascent are difficult, and the rocks near the top are very rotten. The view included *La Bérarde* and the lower part of the *Vallouise*. The colour of the rocks on the highest ridge fully justifies the curious name of the peak. The descent to the col, by the same route, occupied rather over an hour, and the party reached *La Bérarde* the same evening.

COL DE CLOCHÂTEL (c. 3,250 mètres = 10,663 feet), July 10.—The same party, starting from *La Bérarde*, mounted along the Glacier du *Chardon* and then up the two curious patches of snow marked on the map, with the intention of ascending the highest point of the *Montagne de Clochâtel*. They were, however, obliged to retreat before three rocky teeth, conspicuous in every view (which were ascertained the next day to be far below the true summit). Then they climbed some rocks to a point (not quite the lowest) in the ridge between the two summits of the *Montagne de Clochâtel* marked 3,575 mètres and 3,564 mètres. Five hours would probably suffice to reach it direct from *La Bérarde*. Some steep rocks led down to the Glacier du *Vallon* (whence the col is well seen to the right of a remarkable reddish rock), which was quitted in 1½ hour from the col, some time having been spent in reconnoitring the *Clochâtel* from this side. In less than 1¼ hour more the party gained *Les Etages*, and *La Bérarde* the same evening.

MONTAGNE DE CLOCHÂTEL (3,575 mètres = 11,730 feet), *July 11.*—The same party succeeded in making the first ascent of the highest point of this ridge. Retracing their steps of the day before up the Combe des Etages, they skirted the Glacier du Vallon and took to a great buttress descending from the desired summit. This was composed of loose rocks which offered a perfectly easy but somewhat wearisome route. Ascending these to a large patch of snow seen from below, they forced a passage up the rocks above to the extreme right, and then bearing to the left (in full view of the three teeth which were now far below) gained the highest ridge, whence a few steps led them to the highest point in $6\frac{1}{4}$ hours walking from La Bérarde. The day was cloudless and the view most magnificent, in fact only rivalled in Dauphiné by that obtained from the Aiguille du Plat. The descent was effected in less than two hours to the Glacier du Chardon by a rocky ridge and successive patches of snow, the party being lucky enough to hit one of the very few points where it is possible to descend the last steep rocky barrier to the glacier. An hour and three quarters more sufficed for the return to La Bérarde.

PIC DU VALLON (c. 3,800 mètres = 12,468 feet), *July 14.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak, the highest in the ridge between the Écrins and the Ailefroide. Starting from La Bérarde, they followed the route to the Col de la Temple, as far as the point where it is usual to traverse the upper portion of the glacier to the col. They then bore to the left up a hollow, filled by a tributary glacier, at the head of which stood the two points of the desired summit. Keeping to the right they mounted some rocks and then a narrow couloir, which landed them on the watershed far above the Col de la Temple and to the south of the summit. Following this without difficulty and passing over a minor summit, they gained the highest point in rather more than $1\frac{3}{4}$ hour from the point where the route of the Col de la Temple was left. This peak is known at La Bérarde as the Pic du Vallon.

All maps hitherto published* have made the singular mistake of placing the highest point of this ridge (the Crête de la Bérarde) to the south of the Col de la Temple. The point to the south is in reality far lower than the one to the north of which the ascent has just been described. This latter peak is of great elevation by comparison with neighbouring summits, and the height of 3,800 mètres (even higher than the figure assigned on the map to the peak south of the Col de la Temple) may be provisionally assigned to it. It overlooks the Glacier du Vallon; and between it and the Écrins is a bold pinnacle, called by Rodier 'Pointe de Balme Rousse,' and by M. Guillemin ('3^{me} Annuaire du C. A. F.' p. 256) 'le Fifre.' Mr. Bonney

* One map only comes somewhere near the truth. It is a photographed copy (in my possession) of a map of 'The Pelvoux and its Environs, reduced from the MS. map of the Dépôt de la Guerre, with corrections and additions inserted by F. F. Tuckett, 1862, from which the map in Ball's Western Alps is taken (though the last omits the heights). This map gives 3,756 mètres as the height of the two peaks to N. and to S. of Col de la Temple, and 3,524 mètres as that of a lower point of the former.—(W. A. B. C.)

gives two views of this ridge (Plate I., and Plate XI. 3), in the latter of which the three points—Pic du Vallon, Pic de Balme Rousse, and the peak south of the Col de la Temple (which might be named Pic de la Temple)—are clearly distinguishable, and the mistake of the maps is made evident.

The descent to the point mentioned above was effected in less than an hour, and La Bérarde reached in little more than two hours more.

COL DU CHARDON (c. 3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet), July 17.—The same party crossed this pass from La Bérarde to the head of the Val Godemar. It is the pass marked Col du Says in the French Etat Major map, whereas the true Col du Says is reached from the Glacier de la Pilatte. Following the ordinary route to the Glacier du Chardon, the party reached in two hours the foot of the tributary glacier descending from the col. They then took to the rocks on the left bank for $1\frac{1}{4}$ hour, emerging on the upper portion of the glacier just below a great bergschrund which gave considerable trouble and was passed far to the right. Snow slopes then led up to the pass reached in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour from the point where the glacier was entered on—that is $4\frac{1}{4}$ hours walking from La Bérarde. The view from the pass included the Meije, the Ecrins and Sirac, besides many other peaks.

The descent lay through a snow couloir and over a snow-covered glacier, cleared in twenty minutes, and the route from the true Col du Says was rejoined on the Alp of Gioberney. Le Clot in Val Godemar was reached in three hours' easy walking from the pass. According to Rodier, this pass has been crossed two or three times previously; but no notice of such a passage is believed to have hitherto appeared.

With respect to the Col du Sellar, which the party crossed next day to Vallouise, it may be noted that owing to great changes either in the glacier or the rocks, Professor Forbes' description is totally inapplicable to the present state of the pass. The above party were twice on easy rocks for a few minutes only *on the Val Godemar side*, the glaciers on both sides being perfectly easy and covered with fresh snow (as when Professor Forbes passed): they took $3\frac{3}{4}$ hours up from Le Clot (one of the party being indisposed), and the same time down to Vallouise.

COL DU VALLON DE LA BÉRARDE (? 3,611 mètres = 11,848 feet), July 20.—The same party crossed this new pass to La Bérarde. Starting from Villa Vallouise, they followed the usual route to the Glacier Noir, and then kept along the moraine on the left bank up a glacier filled hollow, between a ridge projecting from the Pic du Vallon and the south face of the Ecrins. The proposed pass was seen at the summit of a very steep and lofty (about 3,000 feet) couloir. The party clambered up the rocks on the right hand of this couloir for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour, and then took to the couloir itself, reaching the pass in $1\frac{3}{4}$ hour more. This last part of the expedition was somewhat dangerous as besides avalanches of fresh snow, fragments of ice and rocks, particularly from the Ecrins, swept the couloir (which is exposed to the sun from a very early hour in the morning) continually, and the party had more than one narrow escape. No traces of such avalanches had been observed *in the couloir* from below. The pass was gained in nine hours' walking from Vallouise; it lies between the Ecrins and the Pointe de Balmo

Rousse, mentioned above. On the descent the party bore far to the left over the Glacier du Vallon, which was quitted in fifty minutes; and in twenty-five minutes more the route of the Col de la Temple was re-joined. La Bérarde was reached $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour later. This pass is known at La Bérarde as the Col du Vallon (though the descent to the Glacier Noir has never been attempted), and this name had best be retained, with the addition of a distinctive epithet, although there are already two other Glaciers du Vallon and one Col du Vallon (from the Combe de Lanchatra to Valsenestre) and one Brèche du Vallon (from the Combe de Lovitel to Combe de la Muzelle) in the district.

AIGUILLE DU GOLÉON (3,429 mètres = 11,251 feet), *July 26.*—The same party ascended this peak from La Grave. Following the route to the Col du Goléon as far as Pramelier, they then mounted over pastures to the foot of the peak. It is possible to ascend direct, but they preferred to climb up a hollow to the right to gain the SE. arête, which was followed without the slightest difficulty to the summit. A ruined hut on the ridge (probably used by the engineers when surveying for the Etat Major map) was passed a few minutes from the summit. The stoneman on the top is very solidly built and of unusually large dimensions. The view was very fine, and especially interesting as giving a good insight into the intricate topography of the district, of which the Aiguilles d'Arve are the highest summits. There were many names scratched on fragments of slate on the top, of which the earliest is dated 1834. The only ascent in recent years seems to have been that made by MM. Perrin and Ferrand, August 2, 1876 ('2^{me} Annuaire de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné,' p. 93; Bulletin du C. A. F., 1876, p. 221). It is this peak which Mr. Moore and his companions in 1864, when on the S. Aiguille de la Saussaz (erroneously called by them Bec du Grenier), saw rising some two hundred feet above them.

The ascent occupied $4\frac{1}{4}$ hours walking, the descent $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours. It is certainly the finest one-day excursion from La Grave.

COL LOMBARD (3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet), *July 27.*—The same party crossed this pass, which, though marked on the French map, seems to have been entirely neglected by travellers. Starting from La Grave, they mounted to the head of the valley into which the route from the Col du Goléon descends. Then keeping rather to the left, they traversed the lower end of the Glacier Lombard, and reached the col by slopes of snow and débris. The pass, which lies between the S. Aiguille d'Arve and N. Aiguille de la Saussaz, was reached in 5 hours walking from La Grave. The view was very extensive. Descending snow slopes for fifteen minutes, they were then compelled to bear far to the left over slopes of hard shale along the course of the stream; and to reascend slightly to the châteaux of Rienblanc, which were reached in one hour and fifty minutes from the pass.

Next day they crossed the Basse du Gerbier to the head of the Combe de Pierre Fendue, and thence the Col des Sarrasins, between the N. Aiguille d'Arve and the Aiguille de l'Épaisseur, to the Combe des Aiguilles d'Arve, descending to Valloire and Saint Michel the same afternoon.

Mont Blanc District.

ASCENT OF MONT BLANC BY THE BROUILLARD AND FRESNAY GLACIERS.— On July 30, after an attempt two days before, rendered unsuccessful by bad weather, accompanied by Michel Clement Payot and his brother Alphonse, I left Courmayeur at 6 A.M., and proceeding by the route described by Mr. Kennedy in an earlier number of the 'Alpine Journal,' we arrived at 4 P.M. at our previous gîte at the base of the final rocks of a small peak, which is nearly at the head of the ridge separating the Brouillard and Fresnay Glaciers, and is joined to the great rocky face of Mont Blanc de Courmayeur by a narrow col. The gîte I estimated at about 100 feet higher than the summit of the Aiguille de Peteret, or about 12,400 feet.

Leaving the gîte on July 31 at 2.58 A.M., we ascended to the summit of the peak already mentioned in one hour by the steep snow slope on the SE. side; then passing along a short but sharp rock arête, we descended by the couloir leading from the col to the upper basin of the Fresnay Glacier. We found the couloir very steep and long. Passing rapidly over the névé of the Upper Fresnay in three hours from our start, we reached the base of a broad couloir descending from the long irregular arête connecting Mont Blanc de Courmayeur with the Aiguille Blanche de Peteret. After passing the bergschrund we took to some easy rocks on the W. of the couloir, and partly by these, partly by the couloir itself, which was frequently hard ice, reached the arête at 8.5, at a point rather more than halfway between the Aiguille Blanche de Peteret and the summit. Here we found the arête much less inclined than we expected, but the inclination rapidly increased, and the arête being often ice covered with a few inches of snow, progress was slow, and the step-cutting very laborious.

In $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours after striking the arête (11.20) we reached some rocks immediately beneath the summit where the inclination was more gentle, and in a quarter of an hour more reached Mont Blanc de Courmayeur, arriving at the crest at a point where the cornice, elsewhere formidable, required only about a dozen blows of the axe to effect a passage. Forty minutes more enabled us to reach the actual summit at 12.35, whence after twenty minutes' stay we reached Chamonix at 4.40.—J. ECCLES.

COL DE LESCHAUX, *July 23*—Rev. C. Taylor, Messrs. Colgrove, and R. Pendlebury, with Gabriel and Josef Špechtenhauser, made a pass between the Aiguille de l'Eboulement and the Aiguille de Leschaux at the very foot of the latter, from the Glacier de Leschaux to the Glacier de Triolet. Starting from the Montanvert they turned up the highest lateral glacier on the right bank of the Glacier de Leschaux, and climbed a steep narrow couloir whose head lies between the Aiguille de Leschaux and a nameless point on the ridge leading to the Aiguille de l'Eboulement. The rocks at the head of this couloir were extremely difficult. The descent on the Italian side to the Glacier de Triolet was made by the rocks on the left bank of another couloir, and was also somewhat difficult. This route seems to be quite distinct and to be at some distance from the Col de Pierre Joseph, which passes over the top of the Aiguille de l'Eboulement.

Zermatt District.

THE BRUNNEGGHORN.—‘A party, consisting of myself, with Ulrich Almer and Peter Saarbach as guides, and accompanied at his own request by the Curé of Amb, left the Hôtel du Weisshorn, Randa, on August 8th, at 3.55 A.M. Following the usual Bies Joch route to the top of the grass slopes, where the first halt was made at 7.15 A.M.; leaving again at 7.40 A.M., and turning a little to the right, we mounted over patches of snow and slopes of stone débris to the base of the rocks, at 8.35 A.M.; from there we climbed almost straight up the rocks to the arête on the Bies Joch side exactly five minutes from the summit. For the greater part of the way the rocks were easy; the last 300 feet were very steep, but gave good hold, and we had to cut through a rather awkward snow-cornice on to the arête. The summit was reached at 11.30 A.M. We left again at 11.40, and owing to a dense mist the descent presented very unusual difficulties, and consisted of a complicated combination of the summits of the Bies and Brunnegg Jochs, the latter being reached at 12.30 P.M. and left again at 12.45 P.M. We then spent nearly two hours wandering about in a mist on the Abberg Glacier, at last finding our way on the easterly part of the same rock-face by which we had ascended, reached the grass slopes at 3.30 P.M., and Randa at 4.55 P.M.’—W. W. SIMPSON.

ASCENT OF MONTE ROSA FROM THE ZUMSTEINSATTEL.—On the 23rd of July a party, consisting of Mr. W. M. Conway and Mr. G. Scriven, with the guides Nicolas Knubel and Pierre Joseph Truffer, ascended Monte Rosa by a route from the Grenz Glacier, which forms a modification of the old route up the rocks. ‘Starting from the Riffel Hotel at 2.20 A.M., we followed the ordinary track towards the Lys Joch. About 6.30 we halted for breakfast, just below the foot of the rocks by which the ascent to the Höchste Spitze is frequently made. It was then suggested that an attempt might be made to reach the saddle between the Zumstein and Höchste Spitzen, and then turning to the left to follow the arête in a northerly direction to the summit. We determined to make the attempt. Starting at 7.15, we ascended the lateral glacier that descends from this saddle till the rocks at its head were reached. At 8.30 we commenced climbing these, working gradually upwards and to the left, so that at nine o’clock we had the Zumsteinsattel just below us on our right. From this point we bore more to the left, and keeping just below the arête we climbed across the face and made straight towards the summit. The rocks were in many places very difficult. They were always rotten. Owing to the dip of the strata being outwards, it was very hard to find any holding for the hands. A certain amount of fresh loose snow added to the other difficulties, and probably made matters seem much worse than they might appear in its absence. Once it became necessary to take to the arête itself, where it was formed of a razor-like ridge of hard ice. We quitted this as soon as possible, and descended again on to the side overhanging the Grenz Glacier. At 11.15, after 2½ hours of climbing over rocks that had never allowed us to stand in a position of moderate repose for a moment, we reached the lower of the two teeth that form the Höchste Spitze. We waited here for three minutes to talk across to a party on the other tooth—the

Allerhöchste Spitze as it used to be called—and then started off again. Forty minutes were consumed in traversing the short space that intervened. At one point it became necessary to descend some little distance to the left on to the face, in order to turn a rock pinnacle that bars the way. We had to clamber down a very steep gully, or chimney, that ended below in space, and then swing under a projecting rock, gaining some sort of footing at the bottom of another similar parallel gully, up which we climbed on to the arête again. Bits of snow arête alternating with rocks led to the highest point, which we reached at 11.55. The descent to the Riffel was made in a leisurely manner by the ordinary way along the Kamm. Our route is recommended to future climbers, who would enjoy magnificent views in the direction of Macugnaga, and do not mind rotten rocks, plenty of falling stones, and but little good handhold or footing during three and a half hours of steady work. The style of the climbing is something like that met with in crossing the face of the Weisshorn; only the rocks are steeper and more rotten, and the strata dip outwards.'

THE NORD END BY THE ROCKS AND NORTHERN ARÊTE.—'On Aug. 13 Melchior Anderegg and I left the Riffel at 3.45 A.M. We followed the usual Nord End track for about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the distance from Auf dem Platte to the Saddle, and then turned to a ridge of rocks coming down from the arête on the left. On these we found no serious difficulty—though they require a little care as they slope the wrong way—till within about twenty feet of the top. There we were baffled for some time by a smooth overhanging rock, but at last by descending a little to the left we found a practicable place. Once on the arête there is no further trouble: an easy snow slope leads to the top. We reached the summit at 10.20, stayed there twenty minutes, and were back at Auf dem Platte by twelve, the snow being in good order.

'Melchior is of opinion that this route is considerably shorter than the old one. The only real difficulty is to find a way up the last twenty feet of rock.'—F. MORSHEAD.

COL BETWEEN THE OBER- AND UNTER-GABELHORN.—'On Aug. 4 Melchior and I left Zermatt at 5 A.M. by the Trift path, turned to the left up the Gabelhorn Glacier, and made for a plainly-marked snow col to the right of the Unter-Gabelhorn. We had to cross two bergschrunds. The first we turned by taking to the rocks on the right, over the second we found a bridge. We reached the top at ten. The descent is by rocks which look steep but are not really difficult. We had a little trouble, however, in finding a way down from the upper grass slopes to the Zermatt path, which we struck just at the end of the glacier. We reached Zermatt again at 2.30 P.M. Our time, I think, should be considered short, as, though we went from the col to the top of the Unter-Gabelhorn and back, we did not make many halts.

'My only excuse for mentioning this expedition is the difficulty of finding interesting single day excursions of moderate length from Zermatt. This one combines a variety of scenery and interest, with snow on one side and rock on the other. On top of the col a few feet down on the S. side there is a spring of beautifully cool water.'

F. MORSHEAD.

THE FURGGENGRAT.—On Aug. 24 Mr. J. C. Leman (with Jos. M. Kronig of Zermatt as guide), having ascended from Zermatt to the summit of the Furggen Joch, effected a passage, thence along the summits of the Furggen Grat, reaching finally the summit of the Theodule Horn, from which a descent was made by the ordinary path to the Theodule hut, and a return to Zermatt by the usual route over the Theodule Glacier. The views in passing along the Grat were exceedingly fine on either hand, and the expedition may be recommended as one well worthy of repetition and calculated to fill up satisfactorily an off day. It may be added that alternations of rock and snow and ice slopes afford a pleasing variety of work in passing along the Grat. The time occupied in passing from the summit of the Furggen Joch to the Theodule hut was between three and four hours, and the whole expedition, including halts, occupied $11\frac{1}{2}$ hours.—J. C. L.

WEISSHORN.—On Thursday, September 6, Messrs. W. E. Davidson, J. W. Hartley, and H. Seymour Hoare ascended the Weisshorn by a new route. Having camped out about five hours above Randa on the eastern bank of the Schallenberg Gletscher, they started at 5.20 A.M. on the morning of the 6th, crossed the glacier to the rocks of the Schallhorn, and skirted them until they gained the snow plateau above the ice-fall: their original intention had been to try the mountain direct from the Schallenjoch, but this was now thought to be quite impossible (if for no other reason) on account of the immense amount of time which would have to be consumed on the arête. They therefore determined to ascend direct up the south-eastern face of the mountain to a point on the arête about 1,500 feet below the summit. The only moderately safe route up the face was by a ridge to the left (ascending) of the great couloir which descends from near the top of the mountain to the Schallenberg Gletscher. In gaining the ridge the danger from falling stones was considerable, the whole party being for upwards of half an hour exposed to a smart and well-directed fire down the before-mentioned couloir; this risk could not have been avoided without abandoning the expedition. The $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours' work from the bottom of the ridge to the summit of the mountain was considered by all the members of the party (including guides) to be the most continuously difficult they had ever done. The arête was gained in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from the bottom of the ridge, and was thence followed direct to the summit, which was gained in two hours from the point where the arête was struck. The summit of the Weisshorn was attained at 1.35 P.M., quitted at 2.30 P.M., and Randa reached by the ordinary route, the last two hours by lantern light, at 9.15 P.M. Weather magnificent, and the guiding of Peter Rubi, Johann Jaun, and Aloys Pollinger perfect throughout.

Lepontine Alps.

BLINNEN JOCH AND BLINNENHORN.—On June 29 Messrs. Charles Pilkington and Frederick Gardiner, accompanied by the guides Peter Kaufmann and Peter Knubel, crossed a new pass from Reckingen in the Rhone Valley, to Auf der Fruth (Tosa Falls), in the Val Formazza. Having spent the previous night in a wretched châlet at the head of

the Blinnen Thal, they started at 2.50 A.M., reaching a col between the Blinnenhorn and Merzenbachschein at 6 A.M. In forty minutes from the col they arrived on the summit of the Blinnenhorn, which commands a superb view of the great Oberland Peaks. After remaining on the summit for some time, they returned to the col, which they left at 9 A.M., and descending by the right-hand side of the Gries Glacier reached the comfortable little inn above the Tosa Falls at 11.55 A.M. The descent by the Gries Glacier involved no difficulty; but later in the season the crevasses in the upper part of the glacier might be troublesome. The above party suggest the name of Blinnen Joch for this pass.

BASODINE.—On July 1 the same party left the Tosa Falls Inn at 3.10 A.M., and arrived on the summit of the Basodine at 7.40 A.M. They descended by steep rocks to the Antabbia Glacier, and, descending the Val Antabbia, reached the village of San Carlo, at the junction of that valley with the Val Bavona, at 10.45 A.M. Bignasco was reached at 1.10 P.M. The descent was made in a violent snowstorm.

OFENJOCH, HOHSANDHORN, STRAHLGRAT, AND MITTAGHORN.—On July 4 the same party left the inn at Tosa Falls at 2.35 A.M., and, mounting towards the Nuefelgiu Pass, crossed a new pass between the Banhorn and Ofenhorn leading to the Hohsand Glacier. The pass was reached at 5.50 A.M., and the summit of the Hohsandhorn at 8.25 A.M. Crossing the Strahlgrat, which involved considerable difficulty, the Mittaghorn was reached at 10.30 A.M., and descending by the Rappen Glacier and valley they arrived at Viesch shortly after 3 P.M. The Federal map is extremely vague to the east of the Hohsandhorn and Ofenhorn, and quite ignores the existence of a high ridge of rocks between the Ofenhorn and Banhorn, over which the new pass (for which the name of Ofenjoch is suggested) was made.

Oberland District.

THE MÖNCH FROM THE EIGER JOCH.—George E. Foster, with Hans Baumann and his son, a young lad, and Fritz Deutchmann, spent the night of July 30 at the Bergli hut in company with Mr. Shuster. About 3.10 on the morning of the 31st, Mr. Shuster left to ascend the Mönch by the Trügberg arête, and Mr. Foster to try a new route from the Eiger Joch. The latter party reached the Joch at 4.55, but as they found the lower part of the arête leading towards the Mönch quite impracticable, they retraced their steps for some distance. The north-eastern face of the Mönch, which is below the Eiger Joch and the Mönch Joch ridges, is probably as steep an ice wall as has ever been climbed, and it was with great difficulty that the party crossed the bergschrund and obtained a footing on the wall above it. From this point they gradually cut their way upwards towards the Eiger Joch arête, the upper half of which presents no great difficulty, and following this they reached the summit about eight, Mr. Shuster having effected the ascent in about half an hour less time. Both parties descended by the Trügberg arête.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1876.

The following list of expeditions in the Dauphiné and Mont Blanc districts, which, with one exception, have not hitherto been mentioned in the Journal, is contributed by Mr. Coolidge.

Dauphiné District.

TÊTE DE CHARRIÈRE (3,442 mètres = 11,293 feet), *August 28.*—M. A. Guyard, with Henri Devouassoud and Auguste Cupelin, made the first ascent of this peak in fifty minutes, from the Brèche de Charrière, partly by the arête and partly by gullies on the south-west face, descending in a shorter time. The rocks are described as formidable.

COL DES FÉTOULES (c. 3,200 mètres = 10,499 feet), *August 29.*—The same party crossed this new pass between the Tête des Fétoules and the Tête du Crouzet. Starting from La Bérarde, they descended to Les Etages, and then mounted through the Vallon des Etages to the Glacier du Vallon. When opposite the Tête du Crouzet, they began to climb over rocks and débris, always keeping to the left, then over the west branch of the glacier. The col, situated between two rocky points and visible from S. Christophe, was gained by a climb up a steep wall of broken rocks. Here they met M. de Castelnau's party, which had just made the first ascent of the Tête des Fétoules. M. Guyard then made the second ascent of this peak, and descended from the col to the Combe de la Lavey.

TÊTE DES BŒUFS ROUGES (3,431 mètres = 11,257 feet). **COL DES BŒUFS ROUGES**, *September 5.*—The same party made the first ascent of the second summit of this range and crossed a new col. Having, on September 2, made several attempts on the peak from the SW. and NE., they left the châteaux of Entraigues in the Vallon des Bancs on September 5, and mounted over an easy glacier to a col between the points marked 3,431 mètres and 3,377 mètres in the 'Carte du Pelvoux,' published by the French Alpine Club. To their surprise the arête to the left was composed of débris, and led them to the summit of the peak in fifteen minutes. Returning to the col, the descent to the Glacier du Sélé was effected by three long zigzags, and Vallouise reached in 14 hrs. (including all halts) from Entraigues. The view from the summit was extremely fine.*

TÊTE DES FÉTOULES (3,465 mètres = 11,369 feet), *August 29.*—M. E. Boileau de Castelnau, with Gaspard, père et fils, of Saint Christophe, made the first ascent of this peak. Starting from the châteaux de La Lavey, they mounted to the Glacier des Fétoules, at first keeping on the right bank, then over névé, till they reached the Col des Fétoules between the Tête du Crouzet and Tête des Fétoules. An easy ascent (save at one point) along the arête led to the summit. The times were—from La Lavey to col, less than three hours walking; to the summit, forty minutes.

AIGUILLE D'OLAN (3,383 mètres = 11,000 feet). **COL DES AIGUILLES**

* *Annuaire du C. A. F.*, iii. 212, sqq.

(3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet), *September 2.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak and crossed this new pass. Starting from La Lavey, they reached the upper plateau of the Glacier des Sellettes, and climbed the peak by a steep couloir in the rocky S. face in one and a half hour from its base. The descent was effected in one hour on the W. side to a small glacier at the head of Val Jouffrey, scarcely indicated on the maps, known to hunters as Glacier du Fond Turbat. They then traversed the N. slopes of the Val Jouffrey to the Petit Vallon, and mounted to a col at its head just south of the Aiguille d'Entrepierroux, whence La Lavey was reached in little over an hour.

TÊTE DE L'ÊTRE (5,563 mètres = 11,690 feet), *September 4.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak. Starting from La Lavey they mounted the valley for an hour, and then bearing to the left reached a spot high above a large glacier, not marked on any map. Keeping to the left of the glacier they reached the depression at its head, and gained the summit of the peak by a couloir in the rocks. The view was extremely fine. The descent was effected by the same route. The times were—La Lavey to head of glacier, 4 hrs.; to peak, 1.10.

TÊTE DU GRAOU (3,172 mètres = 10,407 feet). COL DU PLAT, *September 18.*—M. de Castelnau, on a chamois-hunting expedition, made the first ascent of this peak, and crossed a hunters' pass between it and the Aiguille du Plat, which he named Col du Plat.*

COL DE JEAN GAUTHIER, *August 26.*—M. Rochat, with Jean Gauthier and Etienne Paquet, traversed this new pass from Monestier to Vallouise. Starting from Monestier, they mounted along the left bank of the Tabuc torrent to the Glacier du Monestier, and traversing it attained the highest point of the Crête des Pavous. The col lay 25 minutes to the N., and was named from the guide who had discovered it on July 24. The descent to the Hôtel Tuckett and the Glacier Blanc was difficult. Vallouise was reached in 16.20 from Monestier (including all halts).†

PIC DE DORMILLOUZE (3,336 mètres = 10,945 feet). PIC DU RIF (3,366 mètres = 11,044 feet). COL DE SÉGURET-FORAN (3,220 mètres = 10,565 feet). COL DES GRANGETTES, *September 28.*—M. Paul Guillemin explored the glaciers of the Massif of Séguret-Foran for the first time. Starting from Ailefroide with Jean Gauthier and Pierre Raymond, of Vallouise, he followed the path to the Pré de Madame Carle for some way, then struck up the Ravin des Fêtes, kept up its left-hand branch (Ravin du Rif) on right bank of the torrent, and having cut up an ice couloir reached the col (named Col de Séguret-Foran), between the points marked 3,336 mètres and 3,366 mètres in the Carte du Pelvoux, in 7½ hrs. from Ailefroide.

In ¾ hr. they made the first ascent of the peak NW. of col (3,336 mètres), naming it Pic de Dormillouze. Then returning to the col they reached in 1.25 from the former peak that to the SE., marked

* *Annuaire de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné*, ii. 123, sqq.

† *Annuaire de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné*, ii. 62; cf. *Bulletin Trimestriel du C. A. F.*, 1876, p. 238.

3,366 mètres (also hitherto unclimbed), and named it Pic du Rif. Thence they descended the Glacier de Séguret-Foran, keeping to the left to avoid crevasses, to a point near the Lac de l'Echauda at its foot, reached in 3.20 from the col. They then crossed a new pass, Col des Grangettes, to W. of point marked 2,846 mètres, reached in 20 min., and descending by the châteaux of the same name, arrived at Monestier in 1.50 more. M. Guillemin points out several errors in the maps, and gives a useful outline sketch of the range.*

Mont Blanc District.

LES FLAMBEAUX (3,366 mètres = 11,044 feet), *July 20.*—The late Mr. H. Cordier, with Jakob Anderegg and Gaspar Maurer, made the first ascent of the second summit of this group. Starting from the Col du Géant, the summit was reached in 1½ hr. by the face overlooking the Glacier du Géant without difficulty, save an ice-wall and steep rocks at the end. The descent to the col by the Courmayeur face of the peak occupied less than an hour.†

GRANDE FOURCHE (3,620 mètres = 11,877 feet), *August 18.*—Mr. H. Whitehouse, with an Orsières man as porter, effected the first ascent of this peak, having ascended the Petite Fourche, a point in the ridge S. of Col du Tour, on the 16th, and made a reconnaissance on the 17th. Starting from the cabane near the Glacier d'Orny, the party crossed the Fenêtre de Saleinoz to the glacier of the same name. They then climbed up the arête, descending from the peak and (though at one time forced to bear to the left over the face) followed it to the summit, encountering only one serious difficulty in the shape of a very steep wall of rock. The return to the cabane was made by the same route, the expedition having taken 10½ hrs., including all halts. The Grande Fourche, which is not visible from the Cabane d'Orny, rises in the ridge running eastwards from the Aiguille de Chardonnet to the Fenêtre de Saleinoz.‡ Mr. Whitehouse, on the 17th, crossed an easy col from Glacier du Tour to the Glacier de Saleinoz between the Grande Fourche and the Chardonnet, which had, however, been made before.§

COL DE LA BÛCHE, *September 16.*—M. A. Guyard, with Henri Devouassoud and Auguste Cupelin, crossed this col between the Aiguilles de Grépon and de Charmoz, from the Glacier des Nantillons to the Glacier des Bois opposite its junction with the Glacier de Talèfre. The snow was in very bad condition, but otherwise no difficulties were encountered. The pass had hitherto been only crossed by chamois hunters.

COL DE LANEUVAZ (3,350 mètres = 10,991 feet), *September 21.*—The same party effected this new pass between the Glaciers de Saleinoz and de Laneuvaz. Starting from Argentière, they gained the Glacier de Saleinoz by the Col du Chardonnet. Instead of remounting to the Fenêtre de Saleinoz, they kept to the right along the glacier as far as the branch descending from the Col du Tour Noir. They then aimed

* *Annuaire du C. A. F.*, iii. 281.

† *Ibid.* iii. 168.

‡ *Bulletin Trimestriel du C. A. F.*, 1877, p. 162.

§ *Vide Alpine Journal*, vol. iv. p. 60.

at a notch at the extremity of a ridge coming down from (?) the Tour Noir, but on gaining it, overlooked another branch of the Glacier de Saleinoz, instead, as they expected, the Glacier de Laneuvaz. (Future travellers are advised to turn this ridge instead of crossing it.) Descending to the level of this tributary glacier, and crossing a wide bergschrund, they mounted without meeting any difficulties to the left-hand side of a very wide gap to the left of the Tour Noir, which was named Col de Laneuvaz. The descent to the Glacier de Laneuvaz, rather above its junction with that of la Maïne or l'Amône, was only rendered difficult by the very bad state of the snow, and the route of the Col d'Argentière was soon rejoined. The times occupied (including halts) were: Argentière to first col, 8 hrs.; from first col to Col de Laneuvaz, 2 hrs. 20 min.; to Châlets de la Folie, 4 hrs. 10 min.; total 14½ hrs.

PETITES JORASSES (3,682 mètres = 12,080 feet), *September 23*.—The same party made the first ascent of this peak. Starting from the Granges de la Vachey, in the Italian Val Ferret, they mounted to the base of the Glacier de Fréboutzie, climbed to the right over easy rocks, then zigzagged back to the left, and mounted towards the summit, over a very crevassed glacier plateau. Great difficulties were encountered in passing the crevasses, but the summit was gained after cutting steps along an ice-wall, above a precipice. It consists of two small rocky points, both of which were climbed. Dense clouds concealed the view, which should be very extensive. The descent was effected by a snow slope below the ice-wall, and a long détour to the N. in the direction of the Aiguille de Leschaux. It proved comparatively easy, and La Vachey was regained after an absence of 15 hrs.*

Zermatt District.

ASCENT OF THE TÄSCHHORN FROM THE MISCHABELJOCH.—Mr. Jas. Jackson, with Christian and Ulrich Almer as guides, left Randa at 1.30 A.M. on Tuesday, August 15, and following the ordinary route for the Mischabeljoch, past the Täsch châlets and up the Weingarten Glacier, struck the rocks of the southern arête of Täschhorn, where they abut on the summit of the pass, at 8.30 A.M. The lower part of the ridge is formed of exceptionally loose and crumbling stones, and is studded with teeth; the arête is, however, generally of sufficient breadth to allow of these latter being outflanked instead of scaled. Two hours of troublesome, rather than difficult, work sufficed to reach a point where a prominent spur running up from the Weingarten Glacier, to which Almer had called attention in the morning as the most obvious way on to the arête, joins the main ridge. Preference had, however, been given to the longer route, in virtue of the enjoyment expected from the views over the Saas Valley, and of the Weissmies and Fletschhorn beyond. From the intersection of the spur alluded to, a flat shoulder leads to the base of the final peak, a third of whose height may be conveniently surmounted by an ice slope to the right; turning off this to the left, on to some steep rocks, an interest-

* *Annuaire du C. A. F.*, iii. 229, sqq.

ing climb of half an hour brought the travellers to the top at 1.10 P.M. It had been intended to descend to Saas by the course followed by Messrs. Watson and Wethered in an ascent made from the eastern side not many days before, but in the face of a blinding snow-storm—as none of the party had been on the mountain before—it was thought wiser to retrace their steps. A few fragments of provisions, however, lying on the rocks to the right were sufficient to suggest the alternative and to indicate the direction taken by the former party; so it was determined, notwithstanding the very unfavourable state of the weather, to attempt to go down by the ordinary route to Randa. In spite of not being able to see six feet ahead during the first 3,000 feet of the descent, Almer was hardly once at fault; having the advantage of clearer atmosphere below, the intricacies of the Kien Glacier presented no serious obstacle, and the party eventually re-entered Randa at 8.30 P.M. The expedition, exclusive of halts, occupied 16 hrs. 45 min. The route by the spur abutting on the Weingarten Glacier, to which reference has been made, would probably shorten it by at least an hour.

THE LYSKAMM ACCIDENT.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

‘Dear Sir,—A short narrative of the late fatal accident on the Lyskamm has been already published in the “Times,” but we think that a few more details may perhaps be satisfactory to members of the Club. On September 6th, Messrs. William Arnold Lewis and Noel H. Paterson, with Niklaus, Johann, and Peter Joseph Knubel, left the Riffelhaus at 2 A.M., to make the ascent of the Lyskamm. As they did not return that same night, Mr. J. A. Carfrae, accompanied by Peter Knubel, Joseph Imboden, and J. J. Trüfer, started the following morning at 6.30 in search. They followed the tracks of Mr. Lewis’s party to the foot of the arête leading down from the summit of the mountain towards the Lysjoch, and there found two knapsacks which had been left by them at this spot on the preceding day, before they began the final climb. This circumstance caused them at once to fear that an accident had occurred, and after skirting the lower slopes of the ridge on the Italian side for nearly an hour, they reached a point from which they saw the whole of the party lying upon the snow at some distance beneath them. Being unable to reach the bodies from this point, they retraced their steps, and after making a slight *détour* arrived at the spot. The cause of the accident was at once apparent: a snow cornice on the arête about 500 feet below the summit of the mountain had given way under the weight of the party, and they had fallen some 1,200 feet on to the glacier beneath. The whole of the party had received such injuries that death must have been instantaneous in every case. Portions of the broken cornice were lying round the bodies, and the line of their fall could be traced by two axes belonging to members of the party, one of which was found upon the ice slope some 300 feet