

déjà été effectué. Il paraît tout aussi évident qu'Exchaquet n'aurait pas entrepris d'aller faire des expériences au Col, si Hill ne l'avait renseigné sur la possibilité d'accomplir la traversée entière. De même c'est le succès d'Exchaquet qui a décidé de Saussure à établir son observatoire au Col du Géant. Peut-on admettre, d'ailleurs, que Hill, venant de Courmayeur, ait été arrêté 'au détroit du Mont Fréty' (c'est le Col même évidemment) 'par les crevasses qu'il aurait eu à traverser pour descendre,' c'est-à-dire, sans doute, par les séracs du Tacul, par des difficultés qu'il ne pouvait même apercevoir du point où il s'était arrêté? En ce cas, il faut convenir qu'on n'aurait jamais vu de touriste plus timoré. Quant à l'attestation donnée par le juge de Courmayeur à Cachat et à Tournier, elle ne contredit point la réalité du passage de Hill, puisque ces deux guides étaient, en effet, les premiers qui eussent fait la traversée dans le sens de Chamonix à Courmayeur . . . avec Marie Couttet, cependant, qu'ils se gardent de nommer.

Car, de toute façon, il est clair que Marie Couttet est le premier guide qui ait passé le Col du Géant. C'est ce que j'ai eu soin de dire dans l'allocution que j'ai eu à prononcer, le 11 août dernier, à l'inauguration du monument élevé à Jacques Balmat. Marie Couttet accompagnait Hill, il accompagnait Exchaquet, et c'est clairement à l'excursion d'Exchaquet que font allusion les guides de Bourrit quand ils se vantent d'avoir traversé le Col deux mois auparavant (28 juin—28 août).

Enfin, monsieur, j'ai relevé dans le même journal le récit du voyage de Bourrit au Mont-Blanc le 5 août 1788 (Nos. des 23 et 30 août 1788). Dans cette narration, où, pour la première fois si je ne me trompe, les *Grands-Mulets* sont désignés sous ce même nom, Bourrit nous apprend que M. Woodley était 'fils du Gouverneur de l'Amérique Anglaise.' Camper était fils du docteur Pierre Camper, né à Leyde, mort à La Haye en 1789, grand voyageur lui-même et qui s'est rendu célèbre par des travaux de médecine, de paléontologie et surtout d'anatomie comparée. Woodley seul a atteint la cime avec quatre guides : Jacques Balmat, Dominique Balmat (frère aîné de Jacques), Cachat et Alexis Balmat.

Veillez, monsieur, excuser cette longue lettre et me croire votre bien dévoué

CHARLES DURIER, C.A.F.

## NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1878.

### *Maritime Alps.*

CIMA DI NASTA, *Sept. 27.*—Mr. Douglas Freshfield, with François Devouassoud, climbed this peak from the Baths of Valdieri. They ascended through the Val dell' Argentera and over a false col to the pass north of the peak, and thence to the summit. The proper route, by which they returned, is from the head of the Val di Gesso, whence an easy ascent leads to a small tarn not shown on the Piedmontese map (which is hopelessly incorrect in this region), between the Cimà di

Nasta and the Cima della Culatta. The rocks on the S. face of the peak are easy. There was so much new snow on the mountains that 'timcs' would only mislead. The peak is slightly higher than its neighbour, the Cima della Culatta, which is crowned by a large stone-man, and it also overlooks the Cima del Mat. It is possibly the third peak of the Maritime Alps, being about 250 feet lower than the Rocca dell' Argentera, or 10,300 to 10,400 feet. The view includes the French coast from the Iles d'Hyères to Mentone, and extends from Corsica to the Adamello range.

#### *Dauphiné District.*

SEGURET FORAN.—PIC DES ARCAS.—On July 12, Messrs. Charles and Lawrence Pilkington, and Frederick Gardiner, *unaccompanied by guides*, made the first ascent of the highest peak of the Seguret Foran, known as the Pic des Arcas (3,467m.). Having passed the previous night at the chalets of Chambran, in the Val de l'Eychouda, they started on the morning of the 12th by lantern light at 2.12. Crossing the Torrent de l'Eychouda, they mounted the steep slopes of loose shale, marked in the Government map Coste Vieille. Climbing in a north-westerly direction, they reached a small glacier (incorrectly marked in the map) closed in on both sides by the numerous peaks of the Seguret Foran. At the head of this glacier a steep snow couloir leads to the main glacier of the group, crossing which they reached the Pic des Arcas at 9.15 A.M., and from it enjoyed a superb view of the Dauphiné and Pennine Alps. After remaining an hour and three quarters on the summit, they returned to the chalets of Chambran by the same route at 2.15 P.M. On the second peak of this group, not many feet lower than the Pic des Arcas, and separated from it by a short snow ridge, they found the cairn erected by M. Rochat, who made the ascent from Monestier last year, but the ascent of the Pic des Arcas and the exploration of the massif from the Val de l'Eychouda had not hitherto been undertaken. On July 19, Mr. Coolidge, from the Pré de Madame Carle, made the second ascent of the Pic des Arcas, and confirms the fact of it being the highest point of the group.

PIC DES OPILLOUS (3,506m.), *July 14.*—The same party, *without guides*, made the second ascent of this peak. Leaving the 'Refuge des Bergers' above Entre-les-Aigues at 1.30 A.M., they reached the Col du Sellar at 7 A.M., and the summit at 11 A.M. The ascent from the col was made by the southern arête, which is uniformly difficult throughout, and required the utmost caution, especially in the descent. On the summit they found the cairn and card of Monsieur Lionel Nigra, who made the first ascent of this peak in September last year. Nothing, however, was known of the first ascent either at Entre les-Aigues or at Ville Vallouise, so that it probably was made from the Val Godemar. They returned to the Refuge des Bergers at 4.15 P.M. by the route taken in the ascent.

PIC JOCELME (3,585m. ?), *July 15.*—The same party, *without guides*, made the first ascent of this peak from the same gîte occupied by them for the Pic des Opillous. Leaving their night quarters at 1.45 A.M., they mounted a steep glacier between the eastern ridge of the

Opillous and the Pic Jocelme, culminating in an almost perpendicular couloir, the top of which was reached at 7.15 A.M. They then crossed the western face of the mountain, over very difficult ice-covered rocks, to a steep glacier, descending almost from the summit. After two hours' step-cutting the summit was reached at 10.10 A.M. The Pic Jocelme is in reality the second peak of the 'massif' known as Les Bans, and is connected with it by a long and apparently impracticable arête. The col between the Jocelme and the Opillous is scarcely practicable on the western side, owing to a constant cannonade of falling stones from both these peaks. On the eastern side of the pass stones also fall, but not in such dangerous quantities, and were it on that account alone this expedition cannot be recommended for repetition. They returned to the Refuge des Bergers at 2.45 P.M.

CRÊTE DE LA BÉRARDE.—PIC DU VALLON, July 21.—The same party, *without guides*, made the first ascent of this peak from the Glacier Noir, having passed the previous night in a high gîte under the eastern ridge of the peak, facing the Pic sans Nom and the Aile-froide. They left their sleeping quarters at 3.40 A.M. and mounted over loose shale and avalanche *débris*, until the upper snowfield covering the southern face of the mountain was reached, from which they gained the eastern arête, and by it arrived on the summit at 7.35 A.M., no difficulty having been encountered except during the last fifteen minutes of the ascent. No traces whatever were found of the cairn erected by Mr. Coolidge, who made the first ascent of this peak from La Béarde last year. Estimated barometrical height, 12,400 feet. After enjoying two hours on the summit in perfect weather, they descended by the same route to their night quarters, at 11 A.M., and to Vallouise the same afternoon. The French Alpine Club have recently erected an excellent hut on the Pré de Madame Carle, viz., the 'Refuge Césanne,' from which this expedition could be more comfortably undertaken than from the gîte on the Glacier Noir.

AIGUILLE DU SOREILLER.—The same party, *without guides*, made the first ascent of this peak on July 24. Leaving La Béarde at 3.23 A.M., they followed the path down the valley of the Vénéon until about fifteen minutes below the village of Les Étages. Turning to the right over steep rock and grass slopes, and keeping the first stream, descending to the right of the valley of the Vénéon, well to their left, they entered a steep and narrow valley, the head of which opens out into an amphitheatre of glacier-worn rocks, climbing which they reached the small glacier under the final peak. From the glacier the ascent was made by the southern face of the mountain, partly up a steep couloir and rather difficult rocks, until the ridge connecting the Aiguille du Soreiller with Le Plaret was reached. From that they arrived on the summit at 11.15 by the eastern arête. The top of this peak is formed by a huge upright block of rock, on which the whole party could scarcely sit at the same time. The descent was made by the same route, and Les Étages was reached at 4.10, and La Béarde at 5 P.M. Estimated barometrical height, 11,340 feet.

VARIATION OF THE COL DE LA MUANDE, OR COL DE CHALANCE.—The same party, *without guides*, left the châteaux of La Lavey at

4.12 A.M. on July 28; and mounting towards the ridge at the head of the Glacier du Fond, they crossed it at a gap about equidistant between the Col de la Muande and the Cime du Vallon, at 8.12 A.M. Bearing to the right, over snow-slopes and rocks, they rounded the buttress of La Rouye Pic, and descended by a steep gully to the Val de Chalance. From the upper plateau of this valley a slight track leads direct to La Chapelle, in the Val Godemar, which was reached at 11.55 A.M. They propose the name of Col de Chalance for this pass.

ROCHE D'ALVAU.—The same party, *without guides*, made the first ascent of this peak on July 31. Leaving La Bérarde at 3.30 A.M., they mounted the moraine and Glacier de la Bonne Pierre, as if for the Col des Ecrins, until the upper plateau of the glacier was reached. From that they attacked the mountain by the southern face, and climbed by a series of couloirs over loose rocks to the summit, which was reached at 9.45 A.M. The view of the Ecrins from this peak is splendid; but on the north side, the Glacier de la Platte des Agneaux and the arid upper valley of the Romanche, backed by the barren hills above the Lautaret road, suffer considerably by contrast. After spending an hour and a half on the summit, in lovely weather, they descended by almost the same route to the Bonne Pierre Glacier, and reached La Bérarde at 3.30 P.M., and St. Christophe the same evening. Considerable time was lost in the descent of the upper portion of the peak, owing to the loose nature of the rocks.

RÂTEAU.—The same party, *without guides*, made the third ascent of this peak, and first from the Glacier de la Selle, in the Vallon du Diable, on August 2. Having passed the previous night in the unfinished Refuge de la Selle (now in course of erection by the Société des Touristes du Dauphiné), they started at 3.30 A.M. Mounting over rocks and avalanche *débris*, under the Pic de la Grave, they reached a large snow-covered plateau on the Glacier de la Selle, above the ice-fall, and from it climbed to the depression in the ridge between the Râteau and the Tête du Replat, forming a col leading to the Glacier des Etançons (Mr. Coolidge's Brèche du Râteau), arriving at 5.30 A.M. From that they reached the summit in two hours by a long snow arête, the snow being in splendid condition. The view is perhaps as fine as any that can be obtained in the whole Dauphiné group. They remained nearly two hours on the summit, and returned to the Refuge de la Selle shortly after midday. The Râteau had been twice previously ascended, once from the Vallon des Etançons, and once from La Grave.

AIGUILLE DE L'ÉPAISSEUR (3,241 mètres = 10,634 feet), COL DE PIERRE FENDUE (c. 2,925 mètres = 9,597 feet), June 28.—Mr. Coolidge with Christian Almer and his son Christian, starting from Valloire, followed the usual track up the Vallon des Aiguilles d'Arve to the highest group of châteaux, and then mounted along the right bank of the torrent, descending from the east flank of the Aiguille de l'Épaisseur. Two steep steps led to gently inclined snow slopes, over which the col to the N.E. of the Aiguille de l'Épaisseur (which it is proposed to call Col de Pierre Fendue) was reached in 4.50, walking from Valloire, close to the point marked 3,035 mètres on the map. From the col the first ascent of the Aiguille de l'Épaisseur was made in two hours during

a violent storm, which necessitated several halts, mainly by the east arête and face. Clouds entirely concealed the view, which was expected to be very interesting from a topographical point of view. Returning to the col in 35 minutes, the party descended by slopes of débris to the head of the Conibe de Pierre Fendue, and then, striking to the left across snow slopes, reached the Basse de Gerbier in 55 minutes walking from the col, and the chalets of Rieublanc half an hour later. The ascent of the Aiguille might be much more easily effected from the Col des Sarrazins to the west.

COL DE L'HOMME (c. 3,400 mètres = 11,155 feet), *July 1*.—The same party accomplished this excursion from La Grave, of which, though it has been at least twice previously made by M. E. Turcot and Signor Martelli, no account seems to have been published. Starting from La Grave, they followed the now well-known way up the Pic Central of the Meije to the spot (called Col de l'Homme) above the Rochers de l'Aigle, where the upper snows of the Glaciers de Tabuchet and de l'Homme unite (just over 4½ hrs. walking). From this point there is a superb view of the chain of Mont Blanc, as well as of the highest ridge of the Meije. They commenced the descent of the very much crevassed Glacier de l'Homme by bearing to the right, but were gradually driven to the left, and finally reached the moraine by the remains of avalanches (2 hrs. from the col). The scenery at the head of the glacier is most magnificent. Instead of descending the moraine direct to the Romanche, they struck a sheep track on the left bank of the glacier, which led them at a great height above the valley to pastures overlooking the hamlet of Pied du Col, the bridge immediately opposite which was reached by scrambling down steep slopes of débris, in 1.40 from the glacier. La Grave was regained by the ordinary path in an hour more. This fine one-day excursion from La Grave revealed the most glaring errors in the French map as to the Glacier de l'Homme and the ridges surrounding it, especially as regards the exact position of the point 3,880 mètres (Pic Gaspard), with reference to the highest ridge of the Meije.

GRAND PIC DE LA MEIJE (3,987 mètres = 13,081 feet), *July 10*.—The same party, starting from a bivouac in the Vallon des Etançons, effected the second ascent of this peak by M. Boileau de Castelnau's route. Full particulars will appear in an early number of the Journal.

LES BANS (3,651 mètres = 11,979 feet), *July 14*.—The same party effected the first ascent of this summit, after a reconnaissance on July 6, which led them to a col immediately to the N.W. of the peak, whence the descent into Val Godemar did not appear practicable.

Starting from a bivouac in the Vallon de la Pilatte, they mounted to the Col de la Pilatte by the usual route; following the crest of the ridge eastwards, they reached the base of the peak, which was ascended after a difficult climb, mainly over snow till beyond a conspicuous rock tower in the ridge, and then by the east ridge and face over very steep rocks. The highest summit was found to be a snow-capped point, precisely in the place occupied by the figures 3,651 mètres on the map, to the south of the fine rocky peak, so conspicuous from the Glacier de la Pilatte, which, however, *nearly* equals it in height. The

view was extremely extended and interesting, including the Vallon des Bans (or Bances), the Val Godemar, and the Vallon de la Pilatte. The descent was effected by the same route, and La Bérarde regained in the evening. The ascent from the Col de la Pilatte took  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., and the descent the same time.

POINTE DES ETAGES (3,564 mètres = 11,693 feet), *July 16.*—The same party effected the second ascent of this peak, being unaware (until reaching the summit) of the identity of the point 3,564 mètres—the lower summit of the Montagne de Clochâtel—with the Pointe des Etages (first climbed and named on June 28, by MM. Félix Perrin and A. Salvador de Quatrefages). The ascent from the Col de la Lavey was made almost entirely by the very jagged S.W. ridge, the first party having mounted by the south face. From the summit first gained, a shattered arête leads to the higher or more northerly prong. The view was marvellous, as fine as that gained from the highest summit of the Montagne de Clochâtel, first ascended by the same party last summer. Time, actual walking—La Bérarde to near Col de la Lavey, less than  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours; from col to N. summit,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours. Return to near col, 1.50; thence to La Bérarde, 2.20. Total, up 6.40; down 4.10.

The French map is very confused and faulty in this neighbourhood. MM. Perrin and Salvador de Quatrefages effected an easy snow pass—Col de la Lavey—from the glacier in the Combe de la Lavey at the south base of the Tête de l'Étre to the head of the Glacier du Chardon, thus opening up direct communication between La Lavey and La Bérarde. The map places the Tête de l'Étre much too far north, and ignores the glacier just mentioned, to which belongs properly the name of Glacier de l'Étre. The topography is further complicated by the fact that the snow plateau, forming the common source of the Glaciers du Chardon and de l'Étre, overlooks on one side the Vallon des Etages, so that should a passage ever be forced to the glacier at the head of that valley, either La Lavey or La Bérarde might be taken as the starting point.

COL DE LA COSTE ROUGE (c. 3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet), *July 18.*—The same party crossed this pass, the shortest and easiest between La Bérarde and Vallouise. The summit was reached in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hours from La Bérarde by the *left* bank of the torrent flowing from the Glacier de la Coste Rouge—(future travellers are advised to keep to the *right* bank)—and the easy glacier itself. The view was comparatively limited. A steep snow couloir led down to the Glacier Noir in 25 minutes, and the Refuge Césanne was gained in 2 hours more.

Until M. Boileau de Castelnaud crossed this pass, August 1, 1877, it was unknown to travellers, though used by the natives as an easy substitute for the Col de la Temple. It is said that for twenty years a former curé of Les Claux, in the Vallouise, was in the habit of crossing this pass every Saturday in order to say mass at La Bérarde.

VARIATION OF THE COL DE SEGURET FORAN (c. 3,300 mètres = 10,827 feet), *July 19.*—The same party, starting from the Refuge Césanne, descended as far as the bridge over the stream, and then mounting an extremely fatiguing couloir, composed of yielding débris and pebbles, reached the Glacier de Seguret Foran (over 5 hours from the Refuge) to the S.E. of the Pic du Rif (3,366 mètres). A little glacier lake was

found on the col. M. Guillemin's Col de Seguret Foran lies to the N.W. of the Pic du Rif. From the col, a cairn of unknown origin on the Pic des Fêtes (3,451 mètres) was reached in 35 minutes; and another, built by Mr. Gardiner's party a few days before on the Pic des Arcas (3,467 mètres)—the culminating point of the massif—in 10 min. more. The view was cloudless and unexpectedly extensive, as it is believed that one or two peaks of the Bernese Oberland on one side, and of the Maritime Alps on the other, were recognised. Returning to the col in 20 minutes, the party descended the glacier, *keeping very far to the right at first*, to the Lac de l'Eychouda—a miniature Märjelen See—and reached Monestier by the Col des Grangettes.

SOUTHERN AIGUILLE D'ARVE (3,514 mètres = 11,529 feet, E. M. F.), July 22.—The same party effected the first ascent of this summit. Starting from a bivouac in the Fond du Goléon, not far from the Glacier Lombard, they reached next morning the Col Lombard in less than 1¼ hours. They then mounted by débris and easy rocks to the base of that one of the two little snow couloirs on the southern face, which is seen most to the right, looking from the col; and ascending it, gained the crest of the S.E. arête of the Aiguille. Then traversing, on its north side, the little peak between the two couloirs, they crossed a rock couloir, corresponding to the left-hand couloir of the S. face, and then traversed the N.E. face (that overhanging the Vallon des Aiguilles d'Arve) for some distance without great difficulty. Several attempts to mount directly by the face were checked by rocks on which there was no sufficient handhold. Retracing their steps a short way to a point where a fault in the rocks of the overhanging upper portion of the peak (which just there were not so high or sheer as elsewhere) seemed to offer some hope, they succeeded in scaling this wall by means of a narrow cleft or breach—a hard bit of climbing, quite as bad as anything on the Meije—and then followed the fault to the S.E. arête, by which the summit was gained without difficulty, in 3.35 from the col, including a halt of 25 minutes, and some time lost in fruitless attempts to climb directly up the face. The summit is a nearly level ridge, running nearly due north and south, falling away steeply on both sides, much like the roof of a house. Large cairns were built on the two extremities of this ridge.

It was the unanimous opinion of the party that the central Aiguille was slightly, but only very slightly, higher. The view was fine, but the central Aiguille completely concealed the northern Aiguille. Descending by the same route, the whole party had passed the 'mauvais pas' in 55 minutes, and reached the summit of the righthand couloir in 25 minutes more, whence 50 minutes sufficed to regain the col., i.e. in 2.10 walking from the summit. The descent to the châlets of Rieublanc from the col occupied 1¾ hours, being effected by a snow slope, then along the crest of a long ridge of shale: a short traverse above La Saussaz to the right led to the base of the slope, at the top of which the châlets are situated, and they were reached after a fatiguing ascent in the afternoon sun. The party were received very hospitably on this, as on other occasions, by Josephine Brun, femme de Th. Guigne. This Aiguille is considered quite inaccessible by the hunters and other natives of the district.

**NORTHERN SUMMIT OF NORTHERN AIGUILLE D'ARVE** (c. 3,400 mètres = 11,155 feet), *July 23*.—The same party made the first ascent of the highest summit of the northern and lowest Aiguille d'Arve, having in 1873 ascended the double-pronged southern and lower summit of the same peak. Starting from the châteaux of Rieublanc they mounted by the usual way to the Col des Aiguilles d'Arve. From the col they ascended the same snow couloir as in 1873, but, arrived at the base of the double-pronged summit, they bore to the right and passed by a narrow opening at the very foot of the northern summit from the east side to a sort of elevated plateau on the west side, well seen from the châteaux, and in Mr. Whympers's splendid engraving. Then traversing to the right as far as a great overhanging rock, they climbed straight up the very steep rocks to the summit, reached in 1.20 from the Col des Aiguilles d'Arve. The view was very fine. Despite the enormous quantity of loose rocks on the summit, no trace of a cairn could be discovered, and the party feel justified in claiming to have made the first ascent of this peak. A very large cairn was erected. The two stone-men built on the double-pronged summit in 1873, and that built on the central Aiguille in 1874, were very well seen. The descent was effected by the same route in 1½ hours to the col, the highest rocks requiring great caution and being especially difficult for the last man. The party then returned to Rieublanc.

**PAS DU GROS GRENIER** (c. 2,900 mètres = 9,515 feet), *July 24*.—The same party, starting from Rieublanc, crossed the Basse de Gerbier to the Combe de Pierre Fendue, and then, circling round its head, reached a point slightly higher than the true 'pas,' by steep but easy rocks, in 2½ hours from Rieublanc. They descended stony grass slopes, then by the snow which still covered the stream, reached the Granges du Pémian in 55 minutes from the col, and Valloire by Pravorsin and Le Clos in an hour more, descending to St. Michel the same afternoon. This pass, as well as the Col des Masses, more to the north, and the secondary range which they traverse, had been hitherto completely overlooked by travellers.

**PIC DU THABOR** (3,205 mètres = 10,516 feet), **COL DU THABOR** (c. 3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet), *August 18*.—The same party, starting from the Granges de Valétroite (which they had reached from Monestier by the Col de Buffère, Névache, and the Col de l'Étroit du Vallon), reached the chapel on the Mont Thabor (3,181 mètres = 10,437 feet), by the usual route, in 3½ hours. The view was quite clear and very extended. Descending to the glacier they then reached the col between the Mont Thabor and the Pic du Thabor, whence the ascent of the latter point was effected in 20 minutes by a rocky couloir and shattered rocks. The peak is said to be considered difficult of access by hunters,\* but is really quite easy. A cairn was built on the summit, there being no traces of man to be found there. The view was nearly the same as from the Mont Thabor. Returning to a point slightly above the true Col du Thabor, the party then reached a lake at the head of the Valmeinier, by a gully filled with yielding débris and a rocky slope, in 35

\* *Annuaire du Club Alpin français*, iii. 260.

minutes from the col. The highest châteaux, La Barnette, were reached in an hour more; thence, keeping always to the right bank save for 20 minutes, the hamlet of Valmeinier was gained in less than two hours, and St. Michel, by a very steep and stony path, in 1.05 more, or in all 4.40, walking from the Col du Thabor.

The chapel of Notre-Dame de Bon Secours, on the Mont Thabor (where mass is said annually by the Curé of Mellezel, on August 24 and the Sunday next following), is situated wholly in Italy. The great 'pyramide' or 'signal' on the same summit, the Col du Thabor and the Pic du Thabor, are situated wholly in France. The French map is not quite accurate; the glacier, very narrow at its head between the Mont and the Pic du Thabor, widens out farther down, and scarcely presents a single crevasse. As far as it was possible to see, the glacier does not extend to the north of the Pic du Thabor.

'Apparently this is the first time that the Col du Thabor has been crossed or the Pic du Thabor ascended, at least by a traveller; and even the Mont Thabor has been much neglected, the sole ascent by a member of the Club known to me being that by Mr. C. Oakley, on August 9, 1864, from Valloire by the head of the Valmeinier, the descent being effected to Valétroite and Bardonnèche.'

W. A. B. C.

#### *Tarentaise District.*

MONT POURRI OR MONT THURIAZ (3,788 mètres = 12,428 feet), August 8.—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his second son Christian, starting from the highest châlet on the Montagne d'Entre-deux-nants above Peisey (which they had reached the day before in 7 hours from Tignes by the Col de la Sachette and the châteaux of la Sevolière), ascended the Mont Pourri in 4.50, walking by Mr. Mathews' route. They then effected a new and direct descent. When about half-way across the great snow amphitheatre at the head of the Glacier des Roches of the Sardinian map (20 minutes from the summit), they struck straight down the glacier on the left, and following it to its extremity, encountering no ice difficulties whatever, gained the grass slopes in 25 minutes. Thence descending somewhat and then traversing to the right, they passed just above the châteaux of la Sevolière in 20 minutes, and in 45 minutes more returned to their starting point, by traversing a grass col to N.E. of the summit, called Les Lanchettes on the French map—in all 1.50 walking from the summit of the Pourri. The Sevolière châteaux are tenanted by Swiss herdsmen, who are very willing to receive strangers. This route is incomparably more direct than the very circuitous way usually followed, and, it is hoped, will in future be frequently taken. It may be noted for the benefit of those who adopt Mr. Mathews' route, that from the first col (Col du Pourri) it is best *not* to descend to the Glacier de Thuriaz and then to mount a long snow-slope to the second col, but to follow the ridge of the first col, which leads to gentle snow-slopes at the very base of the second col; of the two apparent cols, that to the left or just at the base of the Aiguille du Saint-Esprit is the proper one; but it is perhaps easier, owing to the crevasses, to mount to that on the right and then walk

along the ridge to the other. (This latter route was taken by the above party on the ascent in ignorance of the exact lie of the ground on the other side.) Some easy shattered rocks lead in a few minutes to the snow amphitheatre at the head of the Glacier des Roches.

AIGUILLE DU MIDI DE PEISEY (3,420 mètres = 11,221 feet, E. M. F.), or MONT BERNIER (11,227 feet, A. C. map), August 9.—The same party effected the first ascent by travellers of this peak. Descending from Entre-deux-nants to the Mines de Peisey in 1.20, they mounted in 1½ hours by a path rough at first, then leading through woods, to the Châlets de l'Arc, whence an extremely fine view of the Mont Blanc chain was gained. Thence ascending over grass slopes, débris, rocks and snow, they gained in 2¾ hours more the crest of the highest ridge just to the east of the peak, marked 3,001 on the French map. Mounting over snow, and then by the easy rocky west arête, they gained the summit in 1½ hours more, or in all 5½ hours, walking from the mines. A large cairn, probably erected by the French engineers, but containing no names, was found. At Entre-deux-nants, the peak was believed to be inaccessible, and mention made of the unsuccessful attempt of an English (?) party to reach it about eight years before. At Le Bois, the party were assured that no traveller had yet made the ascent. No trace of the peak close by, marked 3,422 mètres in the French map, could be found; the cairn stands on the highest point of the massif. The view was exceedingly fine and unexpectedly extended, reaching from the Diablerets to Dauphiné. The Mont Blanc chain was seen to great advantage, but the Mont Pourri was completely crushed by it. Returning to the point near the peak 3,001, already mentioned, they descended the easy Glacier de la Thiaupé or de la Thiopaz, reaching the grass in 35 minutes from the summit. They then made an attempt to traverse the slopes to the left, in order to gain the head of the Val de Prémou; but, after reaching the spot called 'Froide Fontaine,' S.E. of the point 2,523, they turned back to the right, and gained in 2.20 hours from the glacier by the right bank of the torrent of La Gurre the hamlet of Le Bois in the Val de Prémou, which commands a grand view of the Grande Casse and the Grande Motte. They were hospitably received and entertained as well as the scanty means would allow, at the lower group of houses, by M. Landre Ruffier, the Mayor of the Commune of Champagny. Future travellers are advised to climb the peak by the Glacier de la Thiaupé on the south side of the Col de Frette, on their way over that pass, as the direct ascent from the Mines de Peisey is very long and fatiguing. It might perhaps be possible to descend by the Glacier du Cul du Nant to the route of the Col du Plan Sery and the head of the Val de Prémou; but the want of time prevented the party from trying this route. There is some confusion as to the name of the highest point of the massif. The French map names the peak 3,420 mètres 'Sommet de Bellecôte,' and that of 3,360 mètres 'Aiguille du Midi,' but that of 3,422 mètres is left without any appellation. The Alpine Club map (on what authority?) calls the highest peak 'Mont Bernier,' marking also a lower summit as the 'Mont Blanc de Peisey' (probably the 'Mont Aliet' of the French map). The Sardinian map indicates the 'Aiguille du Midi'

as the eastern extremity of the massif, making the Mont Aliet a lower buttress. At Entre-deux-nants, the highest point was known as the 'Femme du Midi;' and at Le Bois as the 'Aiguille du Midi.' In the confused state of the nomenclature of the group, it has been thought best to keep to local usage, as the safest guide.

COL DE LAROSSOR (Sardinian map) or DE LA ROCHEURE (French map), (c. 3,000 mètres = 9,843 feet), August 23.—The same party traversed this pass, which, though used by the natives, has remained hitherto unknown to travellers.

Starting from the châteaux of Entre-deux-Eaux on the path to Col de la Vanoise, they kept along the right bank of the Larossor torrent, crossing to the left bank opposite the Chapelle de Saint Jacques and returning to the right bank opposite the châteaux de Larossor, the highest in the valley, reached in 1.25 from the starting point. The Vallon de Larossor is celebrated as containing the finest pastures in the Tarentaise. Keeping always on the right bank, they mounted the valley for some distance to some conspicuous whitish rocks, climbing up which and ascending over débris the crest of the ridge was reached in 2¼ hours from the châteaux. The ridge is passable at any point; the party crossed it just to the left of a blunt peak, between the 'Quercées de Tignes' and the 'Pointe du Pisset' of the French map, but nearer the former. The view was cloudy, but did not seem to include more than the Mont Blanc chain, the Pourri, the Sassièrè, the Sainte Hélène, the Dent Parrachée, and the Glacier de la Vanoise. In fine weather it would be easy to combine the ascent of the Pointe de la Sana to the west (3,450 mètres), which, according to M. Puiseux, commands a very fine panoramic view, with the passage of the col. The descent was commenced by traversing a glacier for five minutes, and then lay over débris and grass slopes, where several chamois were seen. Instead of descending by the path on the left bank of the Charvet torrent, marked on the map, the party traversed the grass slopes high above the right bank, and descended to it opposite its junction with a tributary from the west. Crossing the stream to the path they followed it to Le Gorrey, where they crossed to the right bank, reaching the village of La Val de Tignes in 2 hours 20 minutes from the Col, or 6 hours walking from Entre-deux-Eaux.

This pass, barely mentioned in the guide books (Ball, 'S. W. Alps,' 121; Joanne, 'Jura et Alpes françaises,' 514), is slightly longer than the Col de la Leisse; it is not so interesting as that pass, and the view from the Grande Motte far surpasses that from the Pointe de la Sana, but it is useful as a variation on the ordinary route and for those who have already crossed the Col de la Leisse.

#### *Graian Alps.*

CIAMARELLA.—FIRST ASCENT FROM THE COL DE SÉA, August 5.—Mr. G. Yeld, with Alphonse Payot of Chamonix and J. J. Blanc, dit le Greffier, of Bonneval, made this expedition. After reaching a second col nearer the Ciamarella than the Col de Séa, and crossing some steep snow-slopes with a patch of rocks in the middle, they struck the arête

of the Ciamarella, which runs towards the Albaron, a little to the left of the point called Pointe de Chalanson, and reached the summit by way of the arête in 3 hrs. 45 min. (including halts) from the Col de Séa. They found the snow very heavy.

COL DU GRAND MÉAN (circa 10,550), *August 7.*—Messrs J. Heelis and G. Yeld, with Alphonse Payot, reached this col not before crossed, unless by chamois hunters, in 2 hrs. 5 min. from the Glacier des Eivettes. It leads from the Glacier du Grand Méan to the Glacier du Mulinet of the French Map (called Glacier de Pianghias by Mr. Nichols), and is a pleasant excursion for an off-day, the snow scenery being very fine. The col is at the end of the ridge of rocks which runs eastward from the Grand Méan.

ALBARON.—FIRST ASCENT FROM THE SIDE OF THE GLACIER DES EIVETTES, *Aug. 8.*—The same party, with the addition of J. J. Blanc, made this expedition. They followed the usual route to the Glacier des Eivettes, kept along the rocks on the left bank of that glacier, at a considerable height, traversed the snow-slopes under the northern arête of the Albaron, and, striking the eastern arête at a patch of rocks (at a height of about 11,600 feet), reached the summit in 8 hrs. 50 min. (including liberal halts) from Bonneval. The snow was very heavy. The descent was made to the valley of the Arc, a little below Bonneval.

POINTE DU MULINET (circa 11,580), *August 10.*—The same party made the first ascent by English mountaineers of this point, the highest of the Rochers du Mulinet, from Bonneval. They were assured by M. Culet that the peak had never been climbed, but found on reaching the summit that the ascent had been made from the châlets of Ecot in July, 1878, by Signor Barale with A. Castagneri of Balme. The view was magnificent.

COL DE CERRU (circa 10,450), AND POINTE DU BOUSSON (10,945), *Aug. 17.*—The same party, without the Greffier, but with the addition of Jean Martin of Vissoye, left the *stabilimento* at Ceresole at 3.20 A.M. They followed the route of the Col de la Galese as far as Cerru (or Serue). At the end of the valley there is a cirque of repulsive-looking rock, with a broken tower at each side; above the left tower, nearer to the Col de la Galese, there is a prominent snow-peak. They climbed up the left tower, and were going to ascend a sharp rock-peak that shows well from below; but, finding an easier route, they struck down a little, and keeping at a level along the face of the rock-wall, passed through a natural arch of rock, and reached the snow without difficulty. At 10.28 they were on the Pointe du Bousson. There was no stone-man on the top. The view was superior to that from the Levanna and the Aiguille de la Sassièrè. In their descent they joined the route of the Col de la Galese, and reached Fornet at 3.5 P.M. The time includes an hour and a half spent on the summit, besides other halts. This col can be strongly recommended as an improvement on the Col de la Galese. They took a shepherd from Cerru as porter, who walked well, and can show the way.

COL DU GRAND APPAREI (circa 10,780), *August 18.*—The same party, with a porter, left Laval at 3.40 A.M., and, after losing 2½ hrs. on the way, ascended the Grand Appareï by the southern arête. They

then found a way down the wall of rock which joins the southern arête of the Grand Apparei. The latter part of the descent was effected by a rock couloir liable to falling stones, and cannot therefore be recommended. Suche (the lower châlet) was reached at 4.56 P.M. The time includes more than an hour spent on the Grand Apparei, as well as other halts.

COL DE FOS (circa 10,540), August 19.—The same party left the châteaux of Suche at 7.22 A.M., and, crossing over part of the Glacier de Fos, reached the châteaux of Vaudet in 4 hrs. 5 min. The route is of the easiest character possible, and conveniently short for an off-day.

SAINTE HÉLÈNE, TSANTALENA, OR POINTE DE BAZEL (3,606 mètres = 11,831 feet); COL DE BASSAC SUPÉRIEUR OR DÉRÉ (c. 3,150 mètres = 10,335 feet), August 5.—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his second son Christian, starting from Tignes, followed the usual route to the Col de Gailletta or de la Golette, as far as the Glacier de Rhème, then striking up to the right near a conspicuous rocky mass, mounted nearly to the col between the Sainte Hélène and the Granta Parey or Grand Apparei. Leaving the knapsacks at a spot reached in 4.20 from Tignes, they then ascended the Sainte Hélène by a new route up the northern face in  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hours, steering first for some rocks on the arête, and then following it more or less to the top. The slope was entirely composed of snow, which greatly facilitated the ascent. A solidly built cairn was found on the summit, probably built by Mr. Nichols' party, which had made the first and only previous ascent in 1865 by the S.W. arête. The view, though partially veiled by clouds, was very interesting, as including a district as yet unknown to the party. Returning by the same route to the knapsacks in 25 minutes, they reached the Col de Gailletta in a half-hour more, traversing a spur of the Grand Apparei and then snow-slopes nearly at a level. Striking sharply to the left across easy snow-slopes below the Pointe de la Traversière, they gained in 20 minutes a snow col at the northern base of that peak, apparently that known as the Col de Bassac supérieur or déré.\* From this point the Traversière, also called the Petit Mont Bassac (3,321 mètres = 10,896 feet), was ascended by the northern arête without the slightest difficulty in 20 minutes. It commands a very fine view of the Sainte Hélène and the Aiguille de la Grande Sassièrè. Having erected a gigantic cairn, they returned to the col in 10 minutes. The descent of the Glacier de Vaudet was perfectly straight forward. Quitting it in 25 minutes from the col on the right bank, they traversed a moraine and a small glacier, descending from the Mont Bassac for 25 minutes, then took to the Vaudet Glacier again for 35 minutes, and in 15 minutes more along its right bank reached the châteaux de Vaudet dessus, where, as in many places in the Tarentaise, Swiss herdsmen received the party most hospitably. The descent from the col had only taken 1.40 walking.

AIGUILLE DE LA GRANDE SASSIÈRE (3,756 mètres = 12,323 feet), August 6.—The same party made the first ascent of this peak from the Italian side. Starting from Vaudet they mounted in 1.50 entirely by

\* *Guide à la vallée d'Aoste*, par Gorret et Bich, p. 396.

the slopes above the right bank of the Glacier de Vaudet to the upper basin of that glacier. They then steered towards the ridge running S.E. from the Sassièrè to the Traversièrè, gaining the crest in a little over  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours by a steep snow-slope near the second rocky shoulder or step, counting down from the Sassièrè. They then followed the crest of this ridge, exposed to a violent wind and enveloped in mist, but encountering no difficulties except a double corniche just at the base of the final peak, which was itself scaled by steep but easy rocks, the remains of the cross on the summit being gained in 1.05 from the time the S.E. arête was struck, in the midst of a fierce tourmente. The ascent had occupied  $4\frac{3}{4}$  hours walking from Vaudet. The descent to Tignes by the ordinary route and the châteaux of La Revielle took but 2.20, and was perfectly easy. The time (actual walking) occupied in traversing the mountain from Vaudet to Tignes was but 7.05. The route from Vaudet, just described, might be rejoined by anyone starting from Tignes by mounting from Les Sales (or châteaux of La Sassièrè) to Mr. Nichols' Col de la Sassièrè, or to some other point on the S.E. ridge. There are plenty of practicable couloirs, suitable for this purpose.

There are at least two other routes, not yet taken, of which the one is certainly, and the other probably, practicable. The former is that pointed out by M. Cordier from the Col du Fond to the north over easy snow-slopes. The other starts from Vaudet, and would traverse the long, steep rock and ice-slopes on the east flank of the Sassièrè, joining the former route at the northern base of the peak itself.

On August 22, Messrs. Heelis and G. Yeld, with J. Martin and A. Payot, ascended the Aiguille de la Sassièrè from the Col de la Gailletta, passing over the summit of the Petit Mont Bassac, en route. They left the Châlet de la Cascade, the lower of the Sassièrè châteaux, at 3.42, and reached the summit at 10.24 (the time includes halts).

#### *Maurienne District.*

COL DE GÉBROULAZ (c. 3,470 mètres = 11,377 feet); AIGUILLE DE POLSET (3,538 mètres = 11,608 feet), *July 29.*—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his second son Christian, starting from the châteaux of Plan Bouchet above Orelle, on the Cenis road, mounted a glen to the east, and ascending over the Glacier de la Pointe Rénod, reached the depression at its head between the point marked 3,407 mètres on the map and the Pointe Rénod in just over 2 hours from the châteaux. Descending by a steep snow-slope they reached the level of the Glacier de Chavière in 10 minutes, and then struck across it due north to the col between the Aiguille de Pécelet and the Aiguille de Polset, which was reached in  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hours, after a fatiguing but perfectly easy walk. It was named Col de Gébroulaz, not having been crossed before, and was found to be very much more elevated than had been expected. Mist prevented the party from undertaking the ascent of the Aiguille de Pécelet, so ascending to the east, they reached in 16 minutes the western summit of the Aiguille de Polset, and in 20 minutes more the central and highest point—a sharp rocky pinnacle (the eastern summit is much lower, and is the snow dome seen from Pralognan and on the way to

the Col de Chavière). Cairns were built on both, as they appear to have been previously untouched, though one of them *may* be identical with the peak climbed by Mr. Mathews from the Col de Chavière.\* Returning to the col in 15 minutes, the party then descended the Glacier de Gébroulaz without difficulty, save at the base of the Aiguille de Pécelet, where there were some troublesome séracs. In less than 2¼ hours they quitted it at its northern extremity, and in 30 minutes more reached the châteaux de Gébroulaz (not marked on any map), where they were hospitably received by some Swiss herdsmen. From the châteaux there is a fine view of the lower summit of the Aiguille de Pécelet. The next day the party descended in 25 minutes to the châlet du Saut, and reached the châteaux of Planes 40 minutes above Pralognan, on the Chavière path, in 4.40 hours walking, by the Col de Chanrouge and the Col de la Petite Val. just north of the Mont Blanc de Pralognan, enjoying very fine views of the Grande Casse and the Glacier de la Vanoise.

AIGUILLE DE PÉCELET (3,566 mètres = 11,700 feet); COL DU BOUCHET (c. 3,030 mètres = 9,941 feet), August 12.—The same party, starting from the châteaux of La Motte, 2 hours from Pralognan on the Chavière path, passing by the Lac Blanc, gained the east branch of the Glacier de Gébroulaz (which is, properly speaking, almost an independent glacier), between the points, 2,728 mètres and 3,047 mètres, in 2¼ hours walking, and the Col de Gébroulaz in 1.40 more. Descending a few steps to the south, the party struck to the right or west, and in 15 minutes reached the base of the south face of the Aiguille de Pécelet, which is much less imposing from this side than from the Glacier de Gébroulaz. In 15 minutes they gained by slopes of débris and loose rocks the crest of the S.E. arête, and in 15 minutes more a point to the south of and slightly higher (5 to 10 mètres, according to the readings of aneroid barometer) than the point reached by M. Puiseux in 1877. This is the true summit of the Aiguille and the culminating point of the massif. Having built a large cairn in honour of the first ascent, the party descended into a deep depression by easy snow-slopes (the upper part of the Glacier de Pécelet), and gained M. Puiseux's point in 10 minutes from the other point. The small heap of stones found there was somewhat enlarged, and they then returned to the true summit. The distant view was cloudy, but the whole of the Pécelet massif was perfectly clear and was carefully studied. Returning to the glacier at the south base of the Aiguille in 15 minutes, the party then struck to the south-west, descended the Glacier de Thorens for a short distance, and, keeping nearly at a level, reached in 45 minutes from the base of the Aiguille a depression (which it is proposed to name Col du Bouchet), just to the east of the peak marked 3,056 mètres on the French map, whence some of the Dauphiné summits were visible. The Col de la Montée du Fond lies a short distance to the west of the peak 3,056 mètres. Descending by débris to the Glacier du Bouchet, and walking very fast, the party quitted the glacier at its extremity in 15 minutes from the col; in 35 minutes more they reached the châteaux of Plan Bouchet, Bonvillard in 1¼ hours, and

\* *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. ii. p. 401.

Francoz (near Orelle) in 25 minutes more, whence a dusty walk along the high road led them in 1.20 to S. Michel, after a very long, but extremely interesting expedition.

The Péclet massif has been hitherto strangely overlooked. The only expeditions made there, previous to those just described, are :— Ascent of a rocky peak of 11,467 feet from the Col de Chavière in 1861, by Mr. W. Mathews; \* excursion on the Glacier de Gébroulaz and passage of the Col de Corneilla, both in unfavourable weather, by the Rev. C. H. Pilkington, August 21–22, 1865; † passages of the Col de Péclet or de la Chambre, and of the Col de la Montée du Fond, by Miss Brevoort and Mr. Coolidge, July 5, 1874; ‡ and the ascent of a point of the Aiguille de Péclet, by MM. Puiseux and Boutan, on August 22, 1877.§

The Sardinian map is, as usual, confused and faulty in its delineation of the glaciers; but the French map leaves but little to be wished for in point of accuracy and fulness of detail.

DENT PARRACHÉE (3,712 mètres = 12,179 feet), August 21.—The same party, starting from the châteaux of Fournache (about three hours above Aussois, or five hours from Modane), reached Mr. Blanford's Col de l'Arpont in 2.20, and thence ascended the Dent Parrachée in 1.40, the final snow corniche requiring much step-cutting. The route taken was entirely along the S.W. arête (save at one point near the col, where a great tower of rock had to be turned), and seems to be in part new, as both Mr. Blanford's (1864) and Signor Costa's (1876) parties seem to have descended some way on the north side of the col, and to have then remounted to the arête. There is not the slightest difficulty in the new route. The view was of unparalleled magnificence, including every considerable peak in the Cottian, Dauphiné, Graian, Tarentaise, and Pennine Alps, besides the plains of Italy not far from Turin, and a long reach of the valley of the Arc. The stone-man found by Mr. Blanford's party was probably built by the French engineers, and is only 80 or 90 feet below the summit. Returning to the col in just over an hour, the party descended by débris and rocks to the Glacier de la Dent Parrachée in 20 minutes, descended the glacier some way, then traversed a grassy spur to the Glacier de l'Arpont, and keeping to the right (future travellers are advised to keep far to the *left*), descended steep rocks to the Granges de l'Arpont, reached in 2¼ hours from the Col de l'Arpont.

#### *Mont l'anc District.*

AIGUILLE DU DRU.—On Wednesday, Sept. 11, Messrs. C. T. Dent and J. Walker Hartley, with the guides Alexander Burgener of Stalden, and K. Maurer of Meiringen, slept out at a bivouac high up on the rocks close to the base of the Glacier de la Charpoua. Starting the next morning at 4 A.M., they reached the highest point of the Aiguille du Dru at 12.30 P.M. The route followed led by way of the depression between the Aiguille du Dru and the Aiguille Verte, and thence by the S.E. face

\* *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. ii. p. 401.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. ii. pp. 315–316. ‡ *Ibid.* vol. vii. p. 150.

§ *Annuaire du C. A. F.*, 1878, vol. iv. pp. 154–164.

of the higher E. peak of the Dru to the arête. The descent was difficult, though the rocks were in good order. Overtaken by night they did not reach their bivouac till 2 A.M. the next morning, the descent of the glacier being effected by moonlight. The actual summit (visible from Chamonix) is at least eighty or a hundred feet above the lower peak.

**MONT MAUDIT.**—Having passed the previous night at the Grands Mulets, Messrs. H. Seymour Hoare and W. E. Davidson, with Johann Jaun and Johann von Bergen, left at 1.50 A.M. on the morning of September 12, to attempt the ascent of Mont Maudit. Owing to their early start, they were enabled to enjoy half an hour's rest upon the Petit Plateau in a dense fog, pending the arrival of the sun. The highest point of the corridor (Col de la Brenva) was reached at 6.45, and the summit of Mont Maudit at 8.15 A.M. Immediately above the corridor great care was necessary, as an enormous cornice overhung the Brenva glacier; but the ascent of the final peak presented no particular difficulties. The view from the summit was indescribably magnificent, and it is probable that from no point can the whole range of Mont Blanc be seen to so great advantage. Descending to the corridor, the party ascended Mont Blanc by the Mur de la Côte, step-cutting being continuous from the foot of the Mur to the summit.

The Grands Mulets were regained at 2.30; left, after 1½ hrs. halt, at 3.45, and Chamonix reached at 5.30 P.M.

'It may be noticed that nearly all the best maps of this range, following a misprint in the French Ordnance Map, give the height of Mont Maudit as considerably over 15,000 feet. This error is corrected by M. Charles Durier, in his recent work upon Mont Blanc, where the height is rightly given as about 14,670 feet. We have convinced ourselves, after careful enquiry, that the mention of an ascent in the "Alpine Guide" is erroneous.'

**MONT BLANC.**—Having spent the previous night at the Grands Mulets, W. E. Davidson, with Laurent Lanier and Johann Jaun, left at 3.15 A.M. on September 6, and reached the top of Mont Blanc at a little after 9 o'clock. They left the summit at 10.10 A.M. and descended to the Glacier de Miage by Mr. Kennedy's route, arriving at the cabane on the Aiguille Grise at 2.30 P.M.

This is the *first* time that Mont Blanc has been crossed from *Chamonix* to *Courmayeur*, although it may be remembered that there has been one previous descent of the Courmayeur side of the mountain, by Signor Gamba, in 1873.

'We found the actual descent of the rocks less difficult than we had expected, but we were a good deal troubled about an hour before we reached the cabane by falling stones from the rocks above. Some of these came unpleasantly near to us, and formed the only drawback to a magnificent expedition, which, with fine weather and good guides (both of which are indispensable), will not, I think, be found to offer any other serious difficulty. Our experiences during an unsuccessful attempt upon the mountain in 1877 made us anxious to find a safer line of descent from the cabane than that which is ordinarily followed, and it was moreover almost impossible, owing to the alteration of the glacier, to get on to the ice at the usual place. By following a rocky channel

filled with stones and débris which runs down by the side of the glacier for some distance, we succeeded in gaining the ice at a point very much lower down, and not more than ten minutes distant from the main stream of the Miage. The same route had evidently been followed by some previous party in ascending, as we found steps upon the glacier. It is a decided improvement upon the upper route, but I am not at all sure that it will be found possible in future years, as the glacier appears to be rapidly shrinking away from the rock.'

*Pennine Alps.*

THE GRAND COMBIN.—'On Tuesday, Aug. 27, I left Bourg S. Pierre, with Ulrich Almer and a local porter, for the Grand Combin by the Sonadon route. Avoiding the Sonadon Glacier, we kept to the left of the well-marked rock buttress which lies south-west of the summit, and, after ascending snow-slopes, reached a high snow col, conspicuous from their base. Our route then joined that usually taken from the Sonadon side. The weather was wretched. We descended on to the huge basin of névé between the Col de la Maison Blanche, and the Corbassière Glacier, which we followed until it passes 'les herbes de Pannossière,' when we quitted the ice, and, having crossed a low col between the Corbassière and Otanes Glaciers, went down the latter to some rocks leading into the Val de Bagnes.' F. T. WETHERED.

GRAND CORNIER FROM THE NORTH.\*—On August 6, the Rev. F. T. Wethered, with Ulrich Almer and Franz Andermatten, a young Saas guide, ascended the Grand Cornier from Zinal *viâ* the summit of the Bouquetin, descending by the Col de l'Allée on to the Allée Alp, above the head of the Val d'Anniviers. The weather being bad, their time was correspondingly slow; nearly 11 hrs. in the ascent.

'Keeping near the edge of the rock cliffs which descend precipitously from the upper névé of the Moiré Glacier to the Glacier Durand, we diverged to the left on approaching the snow-slope which leads to the rock arête connecting the summit of the Grand Cornier with the Pointe de Bricolla. The rocks, on our striking the arête, were easy; soon, however, they became so jagged as to be quite impracticable, and we were driven over to their southern face. This was very bad to climb, on account of snow, and our passage transversely up the rocks was extremely difficult. On striking the arête once more our troubles were over, and we were rewarded in a very few minutes by a sight of Mr. Whymper's card, dated June 16, 1865, together with two other entries in the bottle on the top.' A Swiss climber (Mons. O. Bornand) ascended the peak, in 1873, from the same direction. F. T. WETHERED.

AIGUILLE DE LA ZA.—On August 31, Mr. J. C. Leman, accompanied by the guides Frederic Payot and Adolphe Folignet (both of Chamonix), in ascending the Aiguille de la Za from Arolla, took a new route to the base of the peak. Instead of ascending by the Glacier de Bertol, the ascent was made by the glacier which fills the head of the valley lying next (on the Arolla side) to the valley of the Glacier de

\* Vide *Scrambles in the Alps*, p. 268.

Bertol. This glacier is unnamed on Dufour's map, but on the local map of the Swiss Alpine Club, dated 1866, it is called the Glacier des Doves Blanches, and by Mr. Cust, in his panoramic sketch, the frontispiece to the 8th vol. of the 'Alpine Journal,' Glacier de Dauva Blantz. It lies high on the Arolla side of the ridge of the Grandes Dents, and the ridge was crossed by ascending the glacier to the foot of an arête of rocks at its northernmost end, by which arête an easy ascent is made to a depression just below the northernmost summit of the ridge, the point of junction with the rocks lying above the Glacier de la Za, which on Mr. Cust's sketch (p. 15 of the 8th vol. of the 'Alpine Journal') is marked summit No. 1. The descent thence to the névé of the Mont Miné and Bertol Glaciers is easily effected, and a short circuit round the base of the rocks leads to the foot of the Aiguille by a line at a much higher level, as well as much shorter, than that from the Bertol Glacier. The ascent, on the 31st, to the glacier was made by the valley into which it descends towards the Arolla Glacier, but the same party on the next day reached the glacier directly from Arolla, by ascending the slopes of the mountain in as straight a line as possible to the summit of the moraine, which so conspicuously crosses the mountain side, and then turning to the right along the ridge of the moraine, and following this until it reaches the rocks bounding the Glacier de Dauva Blantz. They erected there a stone-man, which now marks the point to aim at. By this route the dangers of the couloir, hitherto used as a direct route in the ascent of the Aiguille, are avoided, as there is no risk to be apprehended from falling stones, and the summit of the Aiguille may be reached by it in less than  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hours, even if the longer course be taken. The views are very fine, that of the Aiguille from the Glacier de Dauva Blantz being extremely grand, and the view from the ridge of the Grandes Dents being scarcely inferior to that from the Aiguille itself.

The col over the Grandes Dents, which should be named Col de Dauva Blantz, will not be of much use as a route to Zermatt, as it would involve a considerable descent and reascent to reach the line of the Col d'Hérens, but it is a very direct way from Arolla to the glacier of Mont Miné and to Ferpècle.

J. C. L.

#### Monte Rosa District.

OBER GABELHORN (13,363 feet), *September 3.*—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his son Christian, having reached the summit of this peak by the N.E. arête from Zermatt, and having encountered very serious difficulties in mounting from the point where the ridge was struck (at the base of the *lowest* rocks on the arête) to the summit, owing to the quantity of snow on the rocks, avoided these difficulties on their return by a slight détour, the knowledge of which may be useful to others, whenever the arête is in as bad a condition as it was this summer. From the summit they struck straight down the northern face, composed of hard snow, nearly as far as a snowy shoulder; and then traversed to the right the very steep, snowy slopes (overlooking the Triftjoch) to the base of the rocks on the N.E. arête. This détour occupied  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, steps having to be cut the entire distance, and was far less dangerous than the descent of the

N.E. arête itself would have been. It is believed that this variation has not been made before.

**ZINAL ROTHORN BY THE W. FACE.**—On August 13 Messrs. Conway, Penhall, and Scriven, with the guides Ferdinand Imseng, P. J. Truffer, and M. Truffer, gained the summit of the Rothorn by a new route. Leaving the Mountet but they reached the glacier in half an hour; in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours they crossed the bergschrund at the foot of the final slope of the mountain, at a point below, though somewhat to the right of, the summit. The snow-slope lasted for half an hour longer, and then the ascent was completed by a fairly well-marked rib of rock which leads to a point on the final arête about 20 minutes from the top on the Zermatt side. The ascent from the bergschrund to the summit took  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours. The rocks were in places very hard. The quantity of snow at this time on the mountain rendered the Zinal arête impossible. Hence this route may at times be useful when the ordinary Zinal route cannot be followed. It affords an interesting climb, though probably not nearly so fine a one as the old arête. The descent was made to Zermatt. Time, Mountet to Zermatt  $10\frac{1}{2}$  hours, the snow being in very bad condition on the east side.

**MONTE ROSA.**—On August 17 Mr. W. M. Conway, with Ferdinand Imseng, left Zermatt at 1 A.M. Ascending by the ordinary Monte Rosa route, they reached a point just below the 'Felsen' in 4 hours from Zermatt. Thence they followed the Lys Joch route for about half an hour, and then bore to the left up a side glacier, among great schrunds and séracs, till some rocks were reached. These rocks are conspicuous from the Gorner Grat as forming the end of the great snow buttress that abuts against the mass of the mountain at a point somewhat below the 'saddle.' The ascent of these rocks took half an hour; the back of the buttress was traversed in half an hour, and was followed by a rock climb and short snow-slope which together occupied 20 minutes. By these means the little snow plateau just below the saddle was gained, and the ordinary route joined. This route, which is a slight variation on that mentioned on p. 157 of vol. iv. of the Journal, deserves to be brought again into notice. It substitutes an agreeable and varied climb for the tedious monotony of the snow fields of the Monte Rosa Glacier; by it in bad weather all danger of losing the way is avoided. In the descent it affords some very good glissades. It is no longer than the old route in point of time, and nothing on it is more difficult than the final arête of the mountain.

On August 10, Messrs. Penhall and Scriven, with Ferdinand Imseng and Peter J. Truffer, combined the Nord End and Allerhöchste Spitze in a single expedition. They followed the usual Monte Rosa route to a point 20 min. above 'Auf den Felsen,' and turning off to the left took to the rocks of the Nord End. Descending to the Silber Sattel, they climbed thence in an hour to the Ost Spitze up a rock gully, rendered difficult by fresh snow and ice, and traversed the arête to the Allerhöchste Spitze.

An hour and a half was occupied chiefly in step-cutting from the Nord End to the Silber Sattel, and the whole expedition from the Riffel and back took  $15\frac{3}{4}$  hrs.

On the same day the Rev. F. T. Wethered, with Ulrich Almer and a young Saas man, Franz Andermatten, as guides, after having ascended the Nord End by the rocks, but by a different route from Messrs. Penhall and Scriven, followed them to the Silber Sattel, and arrived at the top of the Allerhöchste Spitze with them.

Mr. Wethered writes:—'The route, in direct line from the summit of the Nord End to the Allerhöchste Spitze, had all of it been traversed in fragments, and in 1848 the northern rocks of Monte Rosa were ascended to the Ost Spitze, from the Silber Sattel, by Professor Ulrich's guides. The brothers Adolf and Hermann Schlagintweit again ascended them to the same point in 1851, but both parties, for reasons which I for one am at a loss to understand, declined to face the arête connecting the Ost with the Allerhöchste Spitze. This portion of the route was left to Messrs. Taylor and Pendlebury to complete, in their ascent from Macugnaga, in 1872, by which it was proved that the gap between the two peaks was not so 'impassable' as it had appeared to early mountaineers.\* Although we all reached the Allerhöchste Spitze at the same moment, the expedition was conceived and carried out entirely independently by the two parties.'

**THE LYSKAMM.**—On September 1, Mr. Percy W. Thomas, with Joseph Imboden and J. Langen, left the new inn on the Col d'Ollen at 1.35 A.M., having in view the passage of the Lysjoch to Zermatt. The weather, however, was so beautifully fine that they were encouraged to put in practice a scheme long cherished by Imboden, which had for its object the ascent of the Lyskamm by the rocks leading up to the S.E. arête, to the left of, but not very far from, the scene of the accident of last year. The attempt succeeded so completely that the summit was reached without a check at 10.50, or in a little under three hours from the foot of the mountain. The ascent was made almost in a straight line up the rocks to the S.E. arête, which was then pretty closely followed to the point where it joins the Lysjoch arête. By this means, only some couple of hundred yards of the latter had to be traversed. The descent was made by the same route. The party then crossed the Lysjoch and arrived at Zermatt at 7.20 the same evening. This route would appear to possess attractions superior to any former one. The really interesting climb by the rocks, though not always particularly easy, did not at any time present any extraordinary difficulty, and has the merit of being free from danger. There is a hut on the moraine of the Lys glacier from whence this ascent might be made in future in from five to six hours. Messrs. Mathews and Morshead reached the same S.E. ridge from the opposite or Felik Joch side in 1867.†

**TÄSCHHORN FROM THE DOM JOCH.**—On Monday, September 2, Messrs. Frederick Cullinan and Gerald Fitzgerald, with Peter Knübel and Joseph Moser as guides, ascended the Täschhorn by the arête leading from the Dom Joch to the summit. Starting from the usual sleeping place for the Täschhorn (about three hours above Randa), they reached

\* See *Alpine Guide*.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. iv. p. 55.

the Dom Joch in six hours and twenty minutes, including a halt for daylight of three-quarters of an hour. They then followed the northern arête of the Täscherhorn, and gained the summit in two hours and ten minutes from the Dom Joch. The arête was found to be difficult from its extreme narrowness, but, on the other hand, the rocks composing it, although very steep, were sound. It reminded the party very much of the Zinal arête of the Rothhorn. In several places along it, a small and treacherous-looking snow cornice overhung the Saas side of the mountain, and had to be carefully avoided. The weather was perfect, and the views on each side from the arête were superb. The descent was made by the ordinary route, which was found by the party to be much easier, but by no means so interesting as the way followed in the ascent.

**DOM FROM DOMJOCH.**—On August 19, Messrs. Conway and Penhall, with Ferd. Imsegg and P. J. Truffer, made the above ascent for the first time. They slept at the usual Täscherhorn sleeping place. The bergschrund, at the foot of the final wall below the Domjoch, was reached in 8 hours from the sleeping place. Thence  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours were occupied in ascending rock gullies, couloirs, rocks, and snow-slopes, to a point on the S. arête of the Dom slightly N. of the true col. From this point the arête was followed for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours in a thick mist, with snow falling and a gale of wind, to the summit. The arête is much broken by rocky teeth. At no point could either face be taken to for more than a yard or two. There were three points of exceeding difficulty, and nowhere was the ascent easy. The rocks were covered by the powdery snow in many places; and this, as well as the blinding snow which was whisked about by the wind and made it impossible to keep the eyes open or to wear spectacles, rendered the ascent more apparently difficult than it might be found in fine weather. The descent was made by the old arête route to the Festi glacier, and thence to Randa. Time, from Randa and back, 18 hours walking.

**THE DOM.**—On September 4, Mrs. E. P. Jackson, with A. Pollinger, P. J. Truffer, and J. M. Biener, and Mr. Percy W. Thomas, with J. Imboden and J. Langen, ascended the Dom by a route that does not appear to have been previously adopted. Leaving the Täscherhorn gîte at 3.20 A. M., they followed the Domjoch route as far as the névé above the ice-fall of the Kien glacier. Here they branched off, and by climbing some easy rocks to the left, arrived at the arête on the extreme right of the mountain, where they found themselves separated from the ordinary route by the very steep snow-slope on the face. The snow being in admirable condition, they were enabled to cross this in almost a direct line from right to left, arriving at a point from whence the summit was reached in three-quarters of an hour by the ordinary route at 9.35. The descent was made to Randa, where the party arrived at 3.15 P. M.: the whole expedition thus occupying a little less than twelve hours, inclusive of all halts.

**BALFERINHORN.**—On July 13 a party consisting of Mr. W. M. Conway, with the guides Pollinger and Truffer, ascended the Balferinhorn by a route which does not seem to have been previously recorded. Starting from St. Nicolas, the Ried Pass route was followed for six

hours to a point on the right bank of the Ried glacier, from which the Balferinhorn becomes first visible. From this point the way lay for one hour over the snow field, and then for half an hour up some fairly steep rocks to a col to the left of the peak. A broad snow arête leads thence in half an hour to the top. The descent was made to the top of the Ried Pass, and it was found that by this route a saving of time is effected in the passage of the pass, the peak and the pass combined being shorter than the pass alone, as all sérac work is avoided. In the descent from the Ried Pass to Saas, a way was taken straight down the rocks, avoiding the usual détour to the left. This route has been probably taken before, but does not appear to have been recorded.

**ALLALEINHORN.**—‘On July 23, accompanied by Ulrich Almer and a Zermatt porter, I left a camp on the upper plateau of the Täsch Alp at 3.40 A.M., and, proceeding by the usual route, reached the summit of the Allaleinhorn at 9.10 A.M. In climbing the rocks, we had to pass under a large and very threatening snow cornice, which overhung a portion of the route; not caring to pass under it a second time, we decided to attempt the descent by a new route. Leaving the summit at 9.15 A.M., we descended in 30 min. by easy snow and one short ice slope to a col between the mountain and a peak without name, marked 3,812 m. on the Swiss map, and thence by very steep and difficult rocks down to the Mellichen glacier, the upper snow of which was reached at 11 A.M., or 1½ hrs. from the summit. The portion of the route between the col and the summit has, I think, been traversed before by a party ascending the mountain from Saas; in the state the mountain was in on the day of our ascent, I consider the line of our descent both shorter and safer than the old route: the rocks are far more difficult, but there is no danger from overhanging snow.’

W. W. SIMPSON.

**THE ALPHUBELHORN.**—Messrs. Worsley, Orde, and G. Foster left Zermatt at 1.30 A.M. on July 20, reached the summit of the Mischabeljoch at 9, and ascended the arête from it to the Alphubelhorn. Leaving the summit at 12, they descended to the Alphubeljoch, by which they returned to Zermatt.

‘The descent of the peak to the Alphubeljoch was only effected by cutting down a very steep ice wall, which required the use of 140 feet of rope, which we fortunately had with us. A party, two days later, with Ulrich Almer as guide, were compelled to return, as their rope was too short. They found the descent of the arête to the Mischabeljoch decidedly difficult; but the expedition, if repeated, is probably best taken the opposite way to that which we took.

‘The Alphubelhorn had previously been ascended from both sides; we only mention our expedition as adding one to the few possible from Zermatt in one day.’

#### *Bernese Oberland.*

**BIETSCHHORN, July 24.**—Messrs. C. T. Dent and O. Maund slept out by the side of the Baltschieder glacier, 8 hrs. above Visp. On the next day they climbed the Bietschhorn by the S.E. arête and face of the mountain, reaching the summit at 1.30 P.M. On the descent they were

caught in a storm, and reached Ried by the Bietsch Joch at 11 P.M. Rocks very bad on both sides. Considerable risk from avalanches.

C. D.

WETTERHORN.—On August 10 Messrs. Baumann and Vernon and Geo. S. Foster made a new ascent of the Wetterhorn. ‘ We left the Gleckstein at 2.30 and bore to the left of the usual route, towards the long ridge of rocks stretching from the peak nearly to the Gleckstein. These we crossed as near the main mass of the mountain as possible, a previous attempt having shown that this is the only way to reach the Hühnergutz glacier, so conspicuous on the Great Scheideck face of the mountain, without much step-cutting. The rocks are not difficult if the right point of ascent is hit off. The glacier was reached about 5 o’clock, and we crossed it till we reached a point about midway on the precipitous face seen from the Great Scheideck. Thanks to the amount of snow due to this very snowy season, we were able to ascend by step-cutting straight towards the summit for a long way. Then to avoid a ridge of rocks which nearly crossed the face, and were both “blatt und eisbedeckt,” we turned sharp to the left, and reached the northern or Great Scheideck arête about a quarter of an hour below the summit, which we gained at 9.55.

‘ The descent was made by the usual route.

‘ This ascent is probably only possible when there is a great deal of snow in good order, as the rocks, when not covered, are very brittle and generally glazed with ice, and very dangerous from falling stones after the sun has reached the face. Guides, Hans Baumann, Egger, and Inäbnit. Hans Baumann’s son, a young lad, also accompanied us.’

JUNGFRAU.—On August 18, Messrs. Vernon, Baumann and Gerald Fitzgerald, with Hans Baumann, Peter Egger and Christian Inäbnit as guides, ascended the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp, by a variation in the ordinary route. Starting from the hut on the side of the Guggi glacier, they reached by the ordinary route the snowfields leading to the base of the final peak. Thence they bore considerably to the left, and reached the foot of a snow couloir, which led straight up to the small depression between the false and the true peak of the Jungfrau, about thirty yards from the latter on the *north-eastern* arête. The couloir was ascended without any difficulty, but considerable care had to be taken in passing along the few yards of the arête from the head of the couloir to the summit of the mountain. The time from the hut to the summit was 7 hrs. 55 min., and the party descended the same day to the Äggischhorn.

#### *Leptontine Alps.*

BASODINE, *June 13.*—Messrs. Moore and H. Walker, with Melchior and Jakob Anderegg, after ascending this peak from the Tosa Falls, went straight down the Caverгну Glacier to Alp Zotto in 1½ hours; from the alp an excessively steep path descends into Val Bavona at a point below the waterfall from Alp Robiei, and leads to a bridge over the main stream which must be crossed to the left bank above Campo. San Carlo was reached in a little more than 3 hrs. walking from the peak. This route is a good deal more direct than the usual one by Alp Robiei,

while it is probably less difficult, and apparently not longer in point of time than that by Val Antabbia taken by Mr. Gardiner in 1877.\* The glacier and slopes below were deeply covered with snow, which no doubt made the last part of the descent to the alps easier and less rough than it might be under other conditions.

#### *Silvretta Group.*

PIZ LINARD, July 15.—Messrs. C. Taylor and R. Pendlebury, with Gabriel and Josef Spechtenhauser, ascended this peak from Lavin by the face of the mountain which overlooks the Club hut. Instead of returning the same way, they descended straight down what Mr. Ball calls the formidable precipice overlooking Val Lavinuoz, and reached Lavin again after about eleven hours' absence in all, without any hurry.

#### *Bernina Group.*

PIZ ROSEG, August 13.—Mr. Benjamin Wainewright, with the two guides, Christian Grass and his son Christian Grass, of Pontresina, made the ascent of Piz Roseg, by a new route, reaching the highest peak first, and returning by the ordinary way. They passed the previous night at the new hut near the Capütschin, and leaving at 2.20 A.M., reached at 5 a point a few hundred yards from the summit of the Sella Pass, and directly below the highest peak of Piz Roseg. They began the ascent by a series of steep snow couloirs, alternating with steep and rather loose rocks, and at 8 struck the southern arête, falling from the highest peak to the Sella Pass, at a point about two-thirds of the way up, with the intention of following it to the top. This, however, proved impracticable, and they were obliged to leave it, descending a little on the E. side, which overlooks the Scerscen glacier. Here they had to cross diagonally a series of snow couloirs, where it was necessary to move with great caution, owing to the softness of the snow, and the very steep angle of the rocks on which it was resting. Then, after crossing a snowfield, a steep scramble up rocks, ending with a snow arête, brought them to the summit of the highest peak at 10.15.

They returned by the usual arête and the Schnee Kopf to the Roseg Restaurant. The ascent, exclusive of halts, took  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the hut; the descent to the restaurant, 4 hrs. 20 min.

#### *Etzthaler Ferner.*

WEISS KUGEL, July 12.—Messrs. C. Taylor and R. Pendlebury, with Gabriel and Josef Spechtenhauser as guides, having ascended the Weiss Kugel from Kurzras by the ordinary route, descended the face of the mountain near the eastern ridge to the Weiss Kugel Joch, and from thence to the Langtauserer Thal. By this way Nauders was easily reached before nightfall. Though probably no single part of this way is new, the combination is so, and furnishes an agreeable route from the Schnalser Thal or the Vintschgau to the Engadine.

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\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. p. 341.

*The Dolomites.*

PASSO DI VAJOLET, *August 28.*—Mr. C. C. Tucker, with François Devouassoud, made a new pass across the Rosengarten range from Welschenofen to Vigo. The way lies at first through forest, and afterwards up steep pastures to the top of a green spur projecting from the face of the Rosengarten, about half-way between the Federer Kogel (Monte Alto di Cantenazzi of the new Austrian map) and the Rothewand Spitz (Coronelle of the map). The level top of this spur is followed until it melts into the face of the mountain, when a short traverse to the right leads to the foot of a gully by which the crest of the Rosengarten is reached without difficulty. In descending it is necessary to bear a little to the left, when easy slopes lead to Val Vajolet, the finest of all the glens on the E. side of the Rosengarten, which is followed to its junction with Val Fassa. The pass, which is nearly 8,500 ft in height, and may be appropriately named the Passo di Vajolet, is perfectly easy throughout, and offers to any traveller from the Karneid Thal or the Tierser Thal to Vigo a route far superior in attractions to the Caressa Pass. The Federer Kogel is seen in its sharpest aspect from the pass, which also commands a remarkable view of the Marmolata. The peaks of Primiero are also visible from a point a little below the summit on the E. side. Time—about seven hours' easy walking from Welschenofen to Vigo.

SASSO DI MUR, *September 6.*—Messrs. R. M. Beachcroft, A. Cnst, and C. C. Tucker, with the same guide, made the first ascent of the S.W. peak of the Sasso di Mur, the highest of the dolomites of Val Asinozza. Starting from a chalet in that valley they crossed the ridge, separating it from its E. branch, which bears the name of Val Fonda. Bearing to the left over a shoulder of the rocky mass locally known as Neva, they descended into the head of Val Fonda and remounted to a saddle lying between the Neva and the S.W. peak of the Sasso di Mur. A difficult climb up the ridge of the latter brought them to the top, which is separated from the N.E. and slightly higher peak of the mountain by a deep and apparently difficult gap. The height of 2,554 mètres, given to the Sasso di Mur by the Austrian map, is probably a little below the mark. Times (exclusive of halts)—about six hours from the chalet in Val Asinozza to the top, and five hours from thence to Primiero.

## ALPINE ACCIDENTS AND ADVENTURES IN 1878.

The 'Alpenpost' copies from the 'Frankfurter Zeitung' the following account of the recent accident on Monte Cevedale. Written by Dr. de Neufville, who attended the survivor, it is naturally more accurate than any of the accounts hitherto published in the English newspapers.

On August 17 three parties left St. Gertrud in the Suldenthal, to sleep at the Schaubachhütte and ascend Monte Cevedale on the next day. The first party consisted of Dr. Salomon, Herr Heinitz, and Dr. Sachs, with two guides, Reinstadtler and Züschg. The other parties were made up of a Viennese gentleman and his guide, and two Berlin students, with a guide. Starting at 4 A.M., the first party reached the