



CHIMBORAZO, FROM ABOVE THE THIRD CAMP.

THE  
ALPINE JOURNAL.

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FEBRUARY 1882.

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EXPEDITIONS AMONG THE GREAT ANDES OF ECUADOR. V.

By EDWARD WHYMPER.

*April 21, 1880. From Cayambe Village to the Town of Otobalo.*

—We got away from the village at 8.50 A.M., taking at first a northerly course, then bearing gradually round to the west; and arrived at the summit of the pass between the great mountain Mojanda and the smaller one la Compania, at 11.30 A.M. From this place Cayambe village bore S.S.E. Encountering heavy rain-storms, were obliged to hurry down, and put up for the night at the town of Otobalo (8,450 feet). There was a decent little inn at this place, kept by an Ecuadorian, who was very attentive and polite. A dozen fighting-cocks, tied up in the courtyard, enlivened our slumbers.

„ 22. *From Otobalo to the Town of Cotocachi.*—Left the heaviest part of our baggage behind, and moved on at mid-day to the town of Cotocachi (7,970).\* This place is in the heart of the province of Imbabura, situated in a comparatively well-wooded and fertile country, much of which is under cultivation, and presented an agreeable contrast to the sterility and nakedness of the greater part of the districts through which we had hitherto passed. There was no 'tambo'

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\* Altitude deduced from the mean of two observations of mercurial barometer. Reiss and Stübel's altitude deduced from the mean of 24 observations is 8,048 feet.

at this place, and the priest courteously allowed us to stop in his house. He said that there were 5,000 Indians and 3,000 whites in his parish. The districts round the town, and to the north and south of it, were the most densely populated we had seen in Ecuador; and the natives were evidently prosperous, though this is the region which is most frequently disturbed by earthquakes. Intemperance is common. So far, we had seen only two intoxicated persons in the whole country, but here we sometimes saw a dozen in a day.

By frequent levellings at different heights on Cayambe mountain, it had been determined that Cotocachi mountain was the loftiest peak of its district, and that of its two summits, the southernmost was the highest. To reach this was now our aim, by a route which had been settled; but, as the whole country was seamed with earthquake ravines, it was necessary to secure local guidance over the lower part of the mountain, and we obtained a proper person—a Columbian—by the assistance of our host.

*April 23. From the Town of Cotocachi to Camp on Cotocachi.*—Got off at 6.35 A.M., bearing a letter from the priest to the proprietor of the highest habitation on Cotocachi, a small farm called Iltaqui (10,050). The route taken to reach this place was circuitous, and we met the owner on the road, who instructed an Indian in charge of the farm to accompany us as high as mules could go. This he did, bringing us up to and along a ridge running nearly south from the highest point, and to a point not far from the place at which we desired to camp. Until 2.30 P.M. the weather was reasonably good. It then commenced to snow, and to blow hard, and whilst we were establishing our camp (14,490) the whole of our assistants bolted, dropping their loads all over the mountain, and leaving the Carrels and Verity to do as best they could. They had a difficult task, for the wind was frightful, and snow fell continuously. Passed a night of torment, living principally on chlorodyne and laudanum.

„ 24. *The First Ascent of Cotocachi, and Descent to Iltaqui.*—Six inches of new snow around the tent in the morning. The wind had been terrible in the night, blowing in squalls, which almost carried us away.

Start was delayed until it moderated, and we left at 8.25 A.M., with very little expectation of reaching the summit, Verity remaining behind as camp-keeper. The mountain was plastered all over with new snow, but it cohered well, and by keeping to the sides of couloirs, and trusting more to rock than to snow for footing, we made fair progress, and reached the very highest point (16,289)\* at 11.35 A.M. The view was limited to the immediate neighbourhood of the mountain. Mosses were found on the highest rocks. Wind was very high at the summit, and intensely cold, though the lowest observed temperature was 36°·5 Fah.

Commenced descent at 12.20, and got to the camp at 2.15 P.M., going fast the last part of the way. Found Verity in difficulties. The tent had doubled up owing to the wind, and he was unable to right it. One of our followers had come up during our absence and had been instructed to bring up the rest with the beasts by mid-day. At 3.20 P.M. they had not arrived, and we started for Iltaqui, carrying all we could, though leaving the bulk of our properties behind. Found our rascals ensconced under a comfortable rock 1,500 feet below, left Louis and Verity to communicate with them, and pushed on with Jean-Antoine. Got to Iltaqui about 7 P.M., very wet and without food. The Indian was uncivil, and though in the possession of plenty of food and firing, refused to give us anything or to admit us. Verity and Louis arrived shortly before midnight. All put up outside the hut.

*April 25. From Iltaqui to the Towns of Cotacachi and Otovalo.*—Made the Indian well understand through Verity why we complained, and then gave him a good thrashing. Cevallos and the beasts not having arrived by 7.50, we moved down to the town, arriving at 10.55, and again put up with the priest, who behaved with great kindness—and set before us a good meal. Our baggage and animals arrived several hours later, and on looking for the brandy and other spirits, it was found that all had evaporated. In-

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\* Altitude deduced from a single observation of mercurial barometer. Reiss and Stübel, by triangulation, made the height of our point 16,273 feet.

vited the Political Chief and the Chief of the Police to the priest's house, introduced our arrieros to them, and said before all that it would have afforded us pleasure to have offered his Reverence and their Excellencies a glass of brandy, but that unfortunately we were unable to do so, as all our spirits had evaporated whilst in charge of the arrieros; and concluded with the observation, addressed to my people, that if brandy and aguardiente evaporated again whilst in their charge, I should either stop ten times its value out of their pay, or hand them over to the police, whichever they preferred. The Excellencies looked serious, and Cevallos commenced to bluster, but ended in tears. Arrived at Otovalo at 5 P.M., having heavy rain again on the way.

*April 26. At Otovalo.*—This journey to the north of Quito had occupied three times the time we desired; and, as we were obliged to quit Ecuador by a fixed date, it had become almost certain that, if we held together, we should not be able to do all the work we wished. I therefore now despatched the Carrels to Quito in charge of most of the recent collections, instructing them to deposit the goods at Giacometti's hotel, and then to proceed southwards to Machachi, and thence to attempt to ascend Illiniza from the north; and not to show their faces again until they could show me its highest rocks. In the meantime I was to proceed to the north of Otovalo, in quest of antiquities and information in general.

The Carrels started for Quito, with David and the jovial man, about mid-day, with the beasts and baggage; leaving Cevallos and Verity with four mules at Otovalo. The exposure on the night of March 31, and the rough life we had led afterwards, had brought on a return of inflammation of the bowels, and I passed this day and the next in bed, without having either food or medicine proper for the occasion.

„ 28. *From Otovalo to Ibarra, viâ Pinsaqui and Hutantaqui.*—The town of Ibarra is the most northern one in Ecuador; and, like Otovalo and Cotocachi, was utterly ruined during the last great earthquake. It is now recovering from this catastrophe, though all its principal buildings still remain in ruins.

Brought letters of introduction to Señor Teodoro Gomez de la Torre, the greatest proprietor of these

parts, and one of the very few gentlemen we met in Ecuador. We were received with the greatest politeness, and were lodged in handsome apartments surrounding a courtyard filled with palms. Our host is said to employ more than a thousand persons on his estates. On the assassination of Garcia Moreno, he was nominated for the Presidency of the Republic, but, to avoid dividing his party, he retired in favour of Borrero, who was elected, and was subsequently ejected by his own *protégé*, His Excellency the present President of the Republic.

April 29. *At Ibarra, and Excursion to Carranqui (birthplace of Atahualpa).*—One of the especial objects in coming to this district was the collection of antiquities, which there was reason to believe would be found in large numbers. This supposition proved correct. No collector appears to have visited this neighbourhood before, and our acquisitions were numerous and valuable. My increasing weakness, and total inability to procure proper remedies, obliged me to leave before the surface had been barely skimmed, and had we been able to wait a few days longer a rich harvest would have been secured.

All the country hereabouts is covered with tumuli, from 30 or 40 feet up to 300 or 400 feet diameter, of various ages, though all, so far as is known, of dates earlier than the Spanish conquest. These tumuli are known to yield objects in metal, pottery, and stone, and some of them have in recent years been subjected to the operations of a joint-stock company. As the members of this association cared for nothing except GOLD, they were disappointed with the pots and skeletons which were brought to light, and ultimately gave up the business as a bad speculation. Objects of great age in gold or silver are now very rarely met with in Ecuador, but pieces of pottery and stone implements are numerous. It took, however, time to instruct the natives, for they had not apparently ever heard any one enquire for 'stones of the Incas,' though, when specimens were exhibited, others were brought in from all directions. Rode over to Carranqui in the afternoon, and at night returned to Ibarra.

„ 30. *From Ibarra again to Carranqui, and then back to Otvalo.*—Went over again to Carranqui in the

morning, and obtained about twenty objects. The priest, the political chief, and the Governor of Ibarra, all promised to collect and to forward objects to Quito, but nothing was ever heard from them. This was our invariable experience elsewhere. Left Ibarra at 12.35 P.M., and rode quickly through the villages of S. Antonio and Hutantaqui towards Otovalo. Tremendously heavy rain set in about 3 P.M., and we were stopped six miles north of the town by a swollen torrent, and waited an hour and a half for it to subside. Sent Verity in meantime to a neighbouring farm to pick up some things which were waiting for us, but he did not return, and we proceeded without him, arriving at Otovalo an hour after sunset, having had much trouble in the dark in finding the road, as the track was badly cut up and washed away.

May 1. *At Otovalo.*—Had baggage packed and beasts saddled at an early hour for return to Quito, but Verity did not appear, and we could not get off without him. Received a good deal of kindly help from a Yankee Jew, who was travelling through the country, dealing in everything from human hair down to watches. At 3.15 P.M. my interpreter turned up, with the lame story that he and his horse had been carried away by a torrent. Looked at my field-glass, which he had been carrying, and found that it had not been wetted. I heard afterwards that he had been occupied on some business of his own. As my indisposition was rapidly increasing I strongly felt the necessity of immediate return to Quito.

„ 2. *From Otovalo to a Ditch on Mojanda.*—It was my intention to return to Quito in two easy days, resting the first night at the village of Malchingi, or at the large farm of Alchipichi. By one thing and another start was delayed until 11.30 A.M. Road led across the great mountain Mojanda (14,088 feet, Reiss and Stübel), which is a prominent object from Quito, and covers perhaps more ground than any mountain in the Ecuadorian Andes. Summit of the pass was about 4,000 feet above Otovalo, and the track across was in a wretched state, muddy, and slimy beyond description. Kept together till near the summit, and then pushed on with Verity, leaving Cevallos driving the two baggage animals. After about half an hour heard shouts behind and saw Cevallos running and waving

his arms to us to stop. Concluded that there was an accident, and returned immediately. Found that one of the beasts had slipped, rolled head over heels down a slope for about 100 feet, had then fallen over a cliff about 80 feet high, and then had rolled some distance further. The load had become detached and was lying in a muddy pool. By this smash lost the whole of the best pieces of pottery we had collected, and had to throw them away. Photographic apparatus was shattered, and clothes were saturated with mud. *The mule lost the tip of one of its ears, but otherwise was unhurt*, and appeared to have been saved by its load. Picking up the scattered fragments, and repacking, caused much loss of time, and at sunset we were several hours distant from the nearest house. Went on, however, until Cevallos and Verity implored me to stop, then all dropped down and camped in a muddy ditch, a part of the track (12,000 feet). There was nothing to burn, and we passed 11 hours in darkness, saving such light as we could get out of two inches of candle which I fortunately had in my pocket.

May 3. *From the Ditch to Quito, viâ Bridge of Alchipichi.*—Our first day's journey having been thus cut short, there was a heavy day's work left. Started at 6 A.M., and arrived at Malchingi in three hours. Breakfasted and engaged a fresh man and additional beast in place of the animal which had slipped, and at 11.30 went on. As far as the bridge over the river Guallabamba the track was in decent order. Crossed bridge at 2.15, and got to the top of the other side of the great Quebrada at 3.25. Here we left the baggage animals and two arrieros, and pushed ahead, arriving at Quito at 10 P.M., having on the latter part of the way heavy rain and roads much cut up. I felt perfectly exhausted, and was informed by my friends that I looked fit for the grave.

„ 3—June 6. *At Quito.*—The necessity of getting rid of my rather serious indisposition determined me to stay at Quito until fit for work, and it took nearly five weeks before a cure was effected. During this time wrote a large number of letters to Europe and elsewhere, packed and despatched to Guayaquil the bulk of the collections (filling 20 cases), sold off

surplus stores, and made various small excursions in the neighbourhood of Quito.

Jean-Antoine Carrel came in a day or two after my return, reporting that he and Louis had ascended Illiniza from the north, and presented specimens of the highest rocks. Louis remained behind at Machachi, keeping guard over stores, and enjoyed an easy and monotonous month alone, improving much in appearance and condition. J. A. Carrel remained at Quito, taking part in the excursions, and made himself generally useful. Verity became more and more unsatisfactory; was found to be drunken and largely in debt; and ultimately discharged himself. Engaged a little Quitonian—Campana by name—of Indian extraction, in his place as interpreter.

On May 15–18 made an excursion to the Pyramids erected by the French Academicians on the plain of Tumbaco, to the north of Quito.\* Subsequently visited H. E. the President of the Republic, and several high officials, receiving many *promises* of information and assistance from them. Vainly endeavoured to obtain information in his special departments from the Director of the Observatory, a German Jesuit named Menten. Received much kindness and attention from several of the foreigners in Quito, especially from the Chilean Minister, who left the country soon afterwards, being appointed Prefect of Lima, on the occupation of that city by his countrymen.

Met also at Quito M. Charles Wiener, who is reputed to have reached the height of over 20,000 feet on Illimani. I ascertained that he had determined his altitude by aneroid barometer. The imperfect manner in which aneroids work at great elevations † renders it not impossible that the height reached by M. Wiener was over-estimated, though, in remarking this, I do not in the least degree question his good faith. I found M. Wiener exceed-

\* See 'Proc. Royal Geog. Soc.,' Aug. 1881, p. 463.

† The best of my aneroids read 13·050 inches and 12·900 inches on the summit of Chimborazo, against 14·100, the reading of the mercurial barometer, and indicated an elevation much in excess of the truth. The case was the same elsewhere.

ingly frank, and passed many pleasant hours in his company. He left Quito on May 24, 1880, on his way to the head-waters of the Amazons, where he is still engaged in exploration.

The long detention at Quito, although vexatious, was not without advantages. We were able to thoroughly mature plans for the remainder of the journey, and when we started southwards on June 7, were all in good condition, and were more perfectly equipped than before; so that for the remainder of the time we travelled with a certain degree of luxury. Campaña proved a great acquisition, and was excellent as a working interpreter and general assistant. Cevallos was re-engaged, for his failings notwithstanding he was a useful man. David had been unexceptionable throughout, and desired to continue; but I dispensed with the services of the jovial arriero, and engaged in his place a strong and very willing lad from Machachi, who had ambition to get upwards. These four men (occasionally assisted by others) remained with us continuously up to the last, and performed their work in a very satisfactory manner.

It was understood on leaving Quito that the mountain Sangai would have to be eliminated from the programme, as a journey to it would alone have occupied several weeks. It was our intention to ascend first Illiniza, then Altar, next Carihuairazo, and lastly Chimborazo from a new direction; and then to proceed to Guayaquil by what was termed the railway route. The manner in which this was done will be described in the next number.

*(To be continued.)*

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AROUND KANDERSTEG. By ALFRED E. CRAVEN. (Read before the Alpine Club, May 31, 1881.)

I HAVE always found much satisfaction in doing anything thoroughly, and as an ordinary lifetime is too short to accomplish this with regard to the whole of the Alps, I found that the next best thing to do was to work out small districts, and, by ascending all the peaks within them, acquire a thorough knowledge of their beauties, difficulties, geology, &c.