

IN MEMORIAM.

ULRICH KAUFMANN.

IN the last number of the 'Journal' (p. 249) the death, on January 11 last, of this old Grindelwald guide was announced, and a short list given of his chief expeditions. He had practically retired from the exercise of his profession as a 'Gletscherführer,' and was probably known to a few only of the members of the Alpine Club. Yet his Alpine career was a remarkable one, and it is but a fitting tribute to the memory of one who as early as 1864 was included among the seven men who formed the 'Old Guard' of Grindelwald guides* that some account of him should appear in these pages. I have been much aided in drawing it up by his *Führerbuch*, which has been placed at my disposition by one of his nearest relatives.

Kaufmann was born about 1837, and his early life no doubt was spent in the usual Oberland fashion. He was introduced to the mountaineering world through Christian Almer, who in 1846 had married Kaufmann's sister Margaret; for Almer and Kaufmann were the two hunters who so much troubled Mr. Wills's mind when making his famous ascent of the Wetterhorn in 1854—the expedition which is generally held to mark the beginning of modern mountaineering. They were together in later days on several climbs, such as the Mönch in 1857 (first ascent), the Jungfrauoch in 1862 (first passage), and the Gross Viescherhorn in 1862 (first ascent). But Kaufmann was not always in attendance on his more celebrated brother-in-law. In 1861 he was one of Mr. Stephen's guides on the first ascent of the Schreckhorn,† being already known to him, as they had been together on the Wetterhorn in 1860. In 1863 he was with Mr. Chater and Mr. Hopper on the second ascent of the Gross Viescherhorn, which, as recent enquiries have shown, was effected by the S.W. face and the last bit of the N.W. arête. By 1864 he had been up the Aletschhorn and the Klein Schreckhorn, while in 1864 he accompanied Herr von Fellenberg on the occasion of the first ascent of the Ochsenhorn. Kaufmann's name is thus associated with very early ascents of nearly all the great Oberland peaks, and he seems scarcely ever to have been away from his native district, his book indeed containing the record of but one journey (in 1868) to Zermatt and Saas. He appears to have retired from active work as guide at the end of the summer of 1871; for, though his book has the official stamp for 1879 and a few later years, the only entries after 1871 are one in each of the following years: 1885, various unspecified ascents in the Oberland; 1886, Schwarzhorn, Mönchjoch, Oberaarjoch, and Strahlegg; and 1887, Zäsenberghorn. For some part of this time

* *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, i. 574.

† This is expressly stated by Mr. Stephen in a note in Kaufmann's *Führerbuch*, dated August 31, 1865 (his first book having been lost), and hence the name Christian Kaufmann in the original narrative of the ascent (*Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. ii. p. 6) must be corrected to Ulrich Kaufmann.

he was, I am informed, landlord of the Great Scheidegg inn, and later also of another inn in the valley. About 1883 or 1884 he started work as a guide again. His book is stamped for 1888, but was not utilised; for his increasing ill-health made it impossible for him to act as guide. As far as I can recollect (and there is no evidence to the contrary in his book) he never accompanied me as guide; but in the latter years of his life I became acquainted with him in respect of certain non-Alpine matters, and came to have a great liking for him personally, as well as a great respect for him as one of the chief among the early explorers of the great peaks of the Oberland. Possibly he did not attain the very foremost rank in his profession (though he was not far behind it); yet the future writer of the Alpine history of the Oberland will not often have occasion to mention the name of a more creditable specimen of the average Grindelwald guide than old Ulrich Kaufmann—as he was called, to distinguish him from a younger man of the same name who has made himself a name in the Himalayas and the Alps of New Zealand.

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ALPINE NOTES.

THE DISCOVERY OF THE FINSTERAARHORN.—It is interesting to recall the fact that it is just one hundred years since the Finsteraarhorn (or, as it was called on the Valais side, the Schwarzhorn *) was introduced to travellers as the highest peak of the Bernese Oberland. This took place through the publication in 1789 of the second edition of Archdeacon Coxe's 'Travels in Switzerland,' which, particularly in its later forms, is by far the best work on Switzerland as a whole that has yet been written in English. In his fifty-ninth letter or chapter he presents us with a very neat large-scale view of the Alps as seen from the environs of Bern, which, as well as the accompanying letterpress, he procured (no doubt on one of his visits to Bern in 1785 and 1786) from Samuel Wytttenbach, a well-known *Pfarrer* and naturalist resident in Bern, who published much about mountains (including, in 1777, the first guide-book to the Oberland) and explored the Bernese Alps more carefully than any man had hitherto done. Here is his description:—'The high peak, which appears to stand near the Zesenberg, † is at a very considerable distance, and probably separated from it by large vallies of ice. This peak, that has hitherto escaped the mention of travellers, seems to be the Finster-

* G. Studer, *Das Panorama von Bern*, 1850, p. 218.

† In the panorama the name Zesenberghorn is given to the peak now commonly called the Ochsenhorn, while in the text (p. 301) we read: 'You observe behind the Exterior Eiger [*i.e.* the Eiger proper as distinct from the Inner Eiger or Mönch] two small peaks, which seem united by a ridge: these are the Viescherhorn and the Zesenberg, which overlook the inferior glacier of Grindelwald.' On the other hand, the name 'Fiescherhorn' is distinctly given to the Ochsenhorn on Plate 172 of Zurlauben's *Tableaux de la Suisse* (1777-1780). The name Viescherhorn occurs as early as 1723 in Scheuchzer's *Itinera Alpina*, p. 289.