

aarhorn in 1888, in company with his friend and fellow-victim, Maquignaz, and I remember well his delighted amazement at seeing so many lofty peaks and wide-spreading glaciers, all quite new to him, while young Christian Almer was able to point out to him his own home in the green valley of Grindelwald at our feet.

A strongly built and active man, he was mainly a cragsman, gaining his experience on the steep cliffs which wall in his home; but, unlike many of his fellows, he took to ice-work with great zest, while always preferring rocks. In Signor Vaccarone's useful list of 'First Ascents' his name stands third on the list with forty-three entries (young Christian Almer and his father claiming 96 and 66 respectively), but he is far ahead of all his Italian or French rivals, Maquignaz coming nearest to him with 31 climbs.

While everyone must feel a pang of regret at hearing that a great guide has met his end among the mountains, there is a certain fitness in such a man perishing on the great hills which he had loved and climbed all his life. And though the memory of Castagneri will long be cherished by those who knew him, it is to be hoped that the 'Passo Castagneri' will preserve his name to future generations. Little did I think when from the Roche Melon Glacier I looked, just a year ago, down the steep rock precipices of this pass on to the snowfields of the Glacier de Derrière le Clapier far below, and wondered how Castagneri had managed to scale them, that I should so soon have to write an 'In Memoriam' notice of one whom his friends used fondly and proudly to speak of as 'il Toni dei Tuni'! He was 45 years of age, and leaves a young widow and four small children, all totally unprovided for. I shall be glad to receive and forward any contributions that may be offered for their relief.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

## NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1890.

### *Cottian District.*

DENTS DE MANIGLIA (3,167 mètres = 10,391 feet, French map), OR MONTE MANIGLIA (3,177 mètres = 10,424 feet, New Italian Survey). *June 24.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, ascended this peak on the way from Maljasset to Castel Delfino. Having reached (8 hrs. 50 min. from Maljasset) the Col de Roure (the Col de Ciabriera of the New Italian Survey), they mounted due north to the foot of a steep rock wall, which was scaled by means of a gully. Thence the way to the highest crest lay over easy snow-slopes, this crest being gained in 1 hr. from the col. Two points were visited, on the more northerly of which was a ruined cairn, while on the more southerly a ruined hut and a stately cairn bore witness to what seems to be the only previously recorded ascent—that made in 1877 by Lieut. Siccardi apparently from the same direction.\* Rather to

\* No. 38 in Signor Vaccarone's *Statistica delle Prime Ascensioni nelle Alpi Occidentali* (3rd edition), under the name of 'Testa di Ciabriera.'

the north of the highest point are four rock teeth, which are apparently lower. The view of the neighbouring ranges was exceedingly interesting, though the very great amount of snow still lying on them was very confusing. Returning to the Col de Roure in 15 min., the party then traversed for  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. to the left across rock and grass slopes (then deep in snow) to the Colletta di Chiappera or di Bellino (2,799 mètres), by means of which the track from the Col de l'Autaret was rejoined, and Castel Delfino reached by way of the Bellinoglen in 4 hrs. 20 min. The Colletta is described in Signori Martelli and Vaccarone's excellent guide-book,\* but it may be added that the unwary traveller should aim at a point some way S.E. of the apparently lowest depression in the ridge, or he will find his path blocked by a great rock precipice on the Bellino side of the pass.

MONTE DI MARTE (c. 3,160 mètres = 10,368 feet). *June 27.*—The same party ascended this peak, which has hitherto been curiously ignored, though very conspicuous from every side. Starting from Castel Delfino, they reached the Col de Vallante by the usual route; then traversed nearly at a level to the north across stones (then deep in snow) to the foot of the Colle del Colour del Porco (45 min.), and thence to another hollow which leads up to M. Guillemin's Col Isaia,† between the Roccie Fourioun and the M. di Marte. A short distance below the latter col they kept to the left and climbed a band of rock, which brought them to the W. ridge of the peak, a walk up which led to the S. and lower point of the peak (1 hr. 40 min., slow), whence, by a traverse across the W. face, the N. and highest summit was gained in 37 min. (slow). On the latter point a small ruined cairn of unknown origin was found. Owing to a rapidly approaching storm the view was nearly hidden, and but a short stay was made. Descending along the W. or French side of the N. arête, in order to avoid a pinnacle on the ridge, the Col de la Traversette was reached in 25 min. by snow-slopes (probably stones later), and the inn on the Piano del Re (from which the peak is very conspicuous) in less than an hour more. The ridge between the Viso and the Traversette is represented with a certain amount of accuracy on the new Italian map, but the French map is very much astray. The peak climbed on June 27 is where the figures 3,070 stand on the Italian map, and 3,112 on the French—that is, immediately S. of the Col de la Traversette, from which no traveller should neglect to ascend it. But these figures do not represent the real height of the peak. It is considerably higher than the Roccie Fourioun, just to the S., which was climbed by Mr. Coolidge in 1888,‡ and is estimated by the Italian map at 3,113 mètres. To the 1890 party the M. di Marte seemed only a little lower than the Monte Granero (3,170 mètres §), to the N. of the Col de la Traversette, and thus the height may be provisionally put at 3,160 mètres. As the peak is not named on the maps, the designation applied to it by Signor Bossoli in his 'Panorama from the

\* *Guida delle Alpi Occidentali* (2nd edition), vol. i. p. 117.

† *Annuaire du Club Alpin Français*, 1877, p. 586.

‡ See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 143.

§ *Ibid.* vol. xii. p. 111.

Sanctuary of San Chiaffredo\* may be adopted, though his height—3,100 mètres—is too low. This ascent completes the exploration of the ridges around the Viso carried out by Mr. Coolidge and Almer during the past eleven summers.

*Dauphiné District.*

CORNE DES BLANCHETS (3,023 mètres = 9,917 feet). *June 19.*—The same party ascended this peak, which is important from a topographical point of view. Starting from Valloires, they followed the path to the Col de la Ponsonnière as far as the chalets of Les Mottes (2.40), then bore round to the E. over grass and snow slopes (probably rocks later in the season), and above the frozen Lac des Cerces to near the depression between the desired peak and that to the W. marked 2,887 mètres (2 hrs., slow). Thence the Corne was ascended, mainly by its N. ridge, in 2 hrs., the great quantity of snow rendering progress very slow. No cairn was found on the summit. The peak is misplaced on the French map, as it stands just E. of 2,887, overlooking at once the Lac des Cerces, the Clairée or Névache valley, and the lakes on the Col des Rochilles. The view, therefore, was unexpectedly striking and extensive. Returning in 20 minutes to the depression above mentioned, the party descended in 10 minutes to the lakes on the Col des Rochilles, passed between them, and remounted in 10 minutes more to the Col de la Plagnetta, whence Valloires was regained in 2.55 by the Combe de l'Aiguille Noire.

The French map is unusually incorrect as to the ridge between the Col des Rochilles and the Col du Chardonnet. Its highest point is a fine snow and rock point which stands just where the map places the figures 2,936, and which is distinctly higher than either the Blanchets (3,023) or even the Pic de la Moulinière (3,098), farther to the south. There is no peak in the position indicated by the figures 3,023, though they are doubtless meant to refer to the Blanchets, which is called 'Come des Blanchets,' the first word being an obvious misprint for either 'corne' or 'cime.'

PIC DE QUEYRETTE (3,183 mètres = 10,443 feet). *July 4.*—The same party, starting from Ville Vallouise, followed the Pointe de l'Aiglière route as far as the chalets of Narreyroux (1.35), and thence mounted the Combe de Narreyroux by the sheep path, which soon crosses to the right bank of the stream, and recrosses to the left above a steep rocky step. Slopes of grass and débris (then deep in snow) led to the Col de Queyrette, just north of the peak (3.50, very slow walking), which was thence easily climbed in 10 minutes. Two points farther to the west are really higher, though marked by the map as only 3,174 mètres. All three points were climbed, and the col crossed (to the Fournel or Haut Martin glen) by Monsieur Paul Guillemain and some friends on August 1, 1888 †

POINTE DE CLAPHOUSE (3,377 mètres = 11,080 feet). *July 7.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak. It took 20 minutes

\* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 480, and *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1875, No. 24.

† *Annuaire de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné*, 1888, p. 83.

only from the Col des Bœufs Rouges, but the last rocks are very steep and rotten, and at that time much encumbered by snow. The highest pinnacle is the central one, and it seemed to be very nearly as high as the eastern point of the Crête des Bœufs Rouges (3,431 mètres). A descent might easily be effected by the glacier which descends into the upland glen to the east, through which lies the way from the Col des Rouges.\* A lower point, just E. of the Pointe de Claphouse, is the peak which is so conspicuous from the chalets of Ailefroide.

LE VAXIVIER, EAST SUMMIT (3,311 mètres=10,860 feet).†—On July 22, Mr. Alfred Holmes, with Maximin Gaspard, and Basil Andenmatten, made the first ascent of this, the most difficult, and one of the highest points of Le Vaxivier. They left the Glacier du Chardon at 7.15 A.M. by a broad snow couloir just below the large bergschrund, well seen from the glacier, and afterwards by rotten rocks and snow until the summit of a lower peak further to the E. was gained. Thence they descended the ridge to a depression; from the depression they turned on to the S. face, and ascended to the summit by good but rather difficult rocks (4 hrs. 25 min. from the glacier). To avoid the rotten rocks encountered in the ascent, the party chose a different way down. They descended to the depression, and then took a very steep, long snow couloir leading (in 2 hrs. 45 min.) directly down to the Glacier du Chardon. The large bergschrund at the foot of this gave some trouble.

The Point Central, which is the same height as the east peak, could be ascended from the Col de la Muande Bellone without difficulty in about an hour.

PIC DU GLACIER CARRÉ (3,860 mètres=12,658 feet).—On July 24 the same party made the first ascent of this peak. From the Vallon des Etançons they followed the ordinary Meije route to the gap between the Pic du Glacier Carré and Le Doigt. Thence they mounted by a rock gully, well seen from the glacier, and afterwards traversed a part of the S. face overlooking the glacier. A very difficult rock climb led straight up to the lower summit. Thence the ascent was continued by the W. side until just below the top, when they turned on to the N. face. Time, 1 hr. 15 min. up from the gap, 1 hr. 25 min. down. Just after the party had left the couloir below the Pyramid Duhamel, a small ice avalanche came down and swept the track they had just left; one of the guides was hit by one of the flying pieces. From the col to the summit, 1 hr. 15 min.; from the summit to the col, 1 hr. 25 min.

PIC DES SUFFLES, EAST SUMMIT (about 3,079 mètres=10,100 feet).—On July 28 the same party, accompanied by M. G. E. Miege and the Rodiers, left La Chapelle en Valgaudemar at 4 A.M., and followed the path to the Col de la Vaure to below the col. They then struck N. to the foot of the small glacier which lies at the S. base of the peak. This they reached at 9 A.M., ascended it for about 50 or 60 feet, and turned to the left on to the S. face, traversed this in a slant-

\* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 400.

† See next page.

ing direction, and afterwards ascended by a gully to a col W. of the peak; from here they turned on to the N. face, and, after crossing two couloirs filled with snow, they went straight up to the summit by moderately easy rocks. Time up from La Chapelle, 8 hrs.; time down to La Chapelle,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

The central and western are about the same height, and both about 50 or 60 feet higher than the eastern summit.

LE VAXIVIER: CENTRAL PEAK (3,311 mètres = 10,860 feet). August 15.—Messrs. H. Heldmann and E. de Q. Quincey, with the guides Jean Baptiste Rodier and Joseph Baptiste Turc, left the hotel at La Bérarde at 4.17 A.M.; arrived at the N. foot of the mountain at 7.46; ascended steep snow-couloir on the N. face for 1 hr., and then by the W. rock arête to the summit at 10.52. Actual walking, 5 hrs. 14 min. Left summit 12.15, descended for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. down the steep ice-wall on the N. side of the above-mentioned arête; then crossed it at nearly the bottom of the rock arête, and descended by the route taken in ascending. Reached the Glacier du Chardon at 3, and the hotel at La Bérarde 5.4. Actual time of walking, 4 hrs. 23 min.

The rocks on the arête are mostly very bad, and one must be prepared for avalanches if the descent be made by the route described. A fall of stones, which damaged the whole party more or less, fell when they were above the bergschrund.

Probably future parties will descend by the Col de la Muande Bellone, or go over the mountain, and return by the Col du Chardon.

Unfortunately the aneroid belonging to one of the party was out of order, so the altitude could not be taken; but they have no hesitation in saying that the central peak is the highest of the group. After making due allowances the central peak may be estimated to be about 50 feet higher than the Pic Oriental, given in the French Government map (and the 'Guide du Haut Dauphiné') as of the same height as the Pic Central.

POINTE DE BALME ROUSSE (3,224 mètres = 10,578 feet). September 9.—Messrs. J. J. Withers and Geoffrey Howard, with Heinrich Zurfuh, of Meiringen, Christophe Roderon, of S. Christophe, and J. B. Rodier, of La Bérarde, made the first ascent of this bold rocky peak, which forms the S.W. extremity of the Flambeau ridge, and to which the name Pointe de Balme Rousse properly belongs, according to the local guides. Starting from the Carrelet club-hut at 3.30 A.M., the party followed the Col des Avalanches route for 1 hr. 20 min., and then bore N. to the base of the mountain, which was gained at 5 A.M. near a large rock at the foot of the more westerly of the two couloirs which seam the S.E. face of the peak. Starting again at 5.30, they bore left across this face towards the S.W. arête, then (in an hour) straight up the good and firm rock of that face. When these became too steep the party was forced to the right, and gained the summit at 9 A.M. by a steep snow gully, the bad rocks on its right side, and some treacherous rocks and snow. The trees just below the village of La Bérarde could be seen, but not the inn itself. The descent was effected from a point on the N.E. arête down the more westerly of the two couloirs on the S.E. face. The rocks of its right bank were followed

for 20 min., and then the easy rocks on its left bank brought them down ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. from the top) to the large rock mentioned above, whence the morning's route was followed to the Carrelet hut.

The times given are slow, as the party took it very easily.

*Graian Alps.*

LES CROIX DE DON JEAN MAURICE (3,140 mètres = 10,363 feet). AIGUILLE DE MÉANMARTIN (3,288 mètres = 10,788 feet). *July 15.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, started from Bessans, and having gained the left bank of the Glacier de Méanmartin by 'Le Vallon' ( $3\frac{3}{4}$  hrs.), struck across the glacier in a south-easterly direction, and by gentle snow-slopes gained the three ancient wooden crosses which look down on Bessans, and are named on the French map 'Les Croix de Don Jean Maurice' (45 min.). The origin of the name does not seem to be known. Returning to the left bank of the glacier in 15 min., the party mounted along it to the col marked 3,105 mètres (45 min.), a low rocky ridge between the Méanmartin and Roche Blanche (S. branch) glaciers. Thence the Aiguille de Méanmartin was gained in 40 min. by the long and shaly S.W. arête. A ruined cairn was found, which was probably built by the engineers engaged in the Survey, as no previous ascent by travellers seems to have been recorded in Alpine literature. The view, which was very fine, included the Dent Blanche. Descending by the easy N.E. ridge to near the Col de Méanmartin, the party traversed the upper part of the N. branch of the Roche Blanche glacier, and reached the watershed between the Arc and the Isère to the right of the Pointe de Pisset (50 min.), just where they had struck it in 1886 on the way from the Pointe de la Sana to the Col des Roches.\* An easy descent down the Glacier des Fours led to the head of the Calabourdane glen, where (40 min.) the route of the Col de Bézin was joined, the village of Val d'Isère being reached in  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. more. This route from Bessans to Val d'Isère is perfectly easy, though rather intricate, and commands a series of superb views, ranging from the Maritime Alps to the Pennines.

ROCHER DE PIERRE POINTE (3,430 mètres = 11,254 feet). *July 16.*—The same party, starting from Val d'Isère, gained the Pointe des Pattes des Chamois (3,632 mètres, French map; 3,609 mètres, Italian map) by very much the same route as in 1889, † but traversing below the Pointe du Fond, and finding the snow in very bad condition. From this peak they descended along the crest of its N.W. ridge, and in 40 min. reached the foot of the point marked 3,430 mètres on the French map, which was ascended in 15 min. more. No cairn or any other sign of a previous visit was found, and this is believed to be the first ascent. Descending a few steps along the N.W. ridge, the party struck down snowy, shaly, and stony slopes to the S.W., and in 30 min. reached the flat-topped buttress marked 2,727 mètres on the map. Thence they descended by stones and grass to the pasturages on the right bank of the Nant Cruet, which was crossed by a curious natural

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 118.

† *Ibid.* vol. xiv. p. 493.

bridge near the chalet marked 2,123 mètres (1 hr.). The Isère valley was regained (1¼ hr.) at Brévières after a pleasant walk past the beautifully situated chalets of Nasonde and Orsière.

The line taken on the descent is the proper route, the other way involving a very long round. Clouds prevented the party from seeing if it was possible to descend from the peak into the Clous glen, to the N., below the 'glacier remanié' of Plan Champ.

ROCHER DE FRANCHET (2,818 mètres = 9,246 feet); POINTE DE LA BAILLETTA (3,060 mètres = 10,040 feet). July 18.—The same party, starting from Val d'Isère (where M. Moris's little inn is now much improved), mounted by a very faint track up the savage little glen between the Pointe de Picheru and the Dôme, gaining in 1.55 a great cairn on the edge of the steep slopes up which they had come, and just S. of the point 2,878 of the Rochers de Franchet. Traversing a green shelf and countless slopes of stones to the N.W., they gained the foot of the point 2,818 of the same range (1.20), and crossing over and ascending many couloirs in the rugged and fantastically-cut rock-wall, reached the old broken cross just below the summit (1.5). This is placed at the extreme W. end of the range, which, seen from Tignes, has the air of a very grand isolated rock pinnacle. The church of Val d'Isère can also just be seen from this point. The ascent is not difficult, but quite unlike any other in the district. Regaining the foot of the peak by a rather more direct route (35 minutes), and passing near the cairn (30 min.), the party then bore to the N.E., passed by a frozen lake, and gained the col (called Col de Dôme on the Sardinian map, and Passage du Dôme on the lithographed edition of the great French map) between the Pointe de Picheru and the Dôme by stony slopes (35 min.). It immediately overlooks the Lac de la Sassièrè. From the pass both the Pointe de Picheru (2,957 mètres) and the point 2,878 of the Rochers de Franchet are easily accessible; but the Dôme (3,030 mètres), which is well seen from the Col d'Iseran, is quite inaccessible from the W., and any attempt on this very grand rock needle should be made from the E. From the above-mentioned pass the party circled round, mainly over snow slopes (later, no doubt, stones), to the north, high above the Lacs de la Sassièrè and du Santet, and gained (50 min.) the foot of the N.W. spur of the peak marked 3,060 mètres, which forms the E. extremity of the Dôme range. Rocks and snow took them to the top in 40 min., but a rapidly-approaching storm only allowed of a halt long enough to build a cairn and christen the peak 'Pointe de la Bailletta.' In fine weather it would be a most admirable belvedere whence to study the south side of the Tsanteleina. After a few steps down the E. ridge (which leads direct to the Col de la Bailletta) the party struck down the S.E. slopes of the mountain, and rejoined the Col de la Bailletta route, by which they gained Fornet, in the Isère valley, in 50 min. from the summit—a difference in level of 3,688 feet—no glissades being possible *en route*. Half an hour more brought them back to Val d'Isère.

ROCHERS DE GÉNÉPY (3,157 mètres = 10,358 feet). July 22.—The same party, starting from Val d'Isère at 9.15 A.M. only, when the weather

cleared, had a delightful walk round the N. side of the Rochers de Bellevarde (2,883 mètres), over splendid pastures, to the Col de Fresse (2,589 mètres; 2.25), not very far from the Col de la Leisse, whence they climbed to the south over the many summits of the Rochers de Génépy, to the highest point (2.25 from the col), which, like its lower neighbours to N. and S., was crowned by a cairn recently built by the cadastral engineers at work in the neighbourhood, who had doubtless come up from the Col de la Leisse. A small red and white flag was found on the N. peak. The view extended from Mont Blanc to the Écrins. The descent was made by the E. face to the head of the Charvet glen, partly over magnificent pasturages. Val d'Isère was regained in 2.25 from the summit after a pleasant round.

**TSANTELEINA** (3,606 mètres = 11,831 feet) FROM THE SOUTH. *July 25.*—Monsieur Henri Ferrand, of Grenoble, with Christophe and Pierre Roderon, of S. Christophe en Oisans, discovered a new route up this peak, which is both shorter and more direct than those hitherto known.

Starting from the village of Val d'Isère at 4 A.M., the party mounted in 2 hrs. to the Quart Alp, and in 20 min. more reached the moraine of the Glacier de Quart. Following the moraine on the left bank, they attained the plateau of the glacier (1 hr. 20 min.), and crossed it diagonally in 20 min. to a rock-wall, by which (in 15 min.) the glacier of Quart Dessus was gained. This glacier was mounted without difficulties to the point on the south arête of the Tsanteleina (1 hr. 15 min.), whence there falls the great snow couloir on the E. face descended by Signor Bobba on August 8, 1888.\*

Hence slopes of very soft snow were climbed to the rocks of the final peak, which led to the summit in 1 hr. 15 min. more, or 6¼ hrs. walking from Val d'Isère. With the snow in better condition an hour at least might be saved. The descent by the same route took 3¼ hrs.

#### *Mont Blanc District.*

**AIGUILLE DU MOINE.** *July 17.*—Dr. Claude Wilson and Messrs. J. H. Wicks, H. Wilson, Ellis Carr, and G. H. Morse completed the ascent of this peak by the route referred to on p. 78 of the Journal for February 1890. The large snow-gully on the S.W. was followed to nearly its top, and then taking to the rocks on the right a succession of steep chimneys, bearing a little E. of the direction of the gully, led on to the W. arête, about 150 feet W. of the summit. It is a climb to be recommended, as the ascent by the ordinary S. route is easy, and the expedition has the extra charm of variety.

**PIC SANSNOM.** *July 28.*—Messrs. Carr, Morse, and Wicks made the first ascent of the Pic Sansnom, the sharp pinnacle on the ridge between the Aiguille du Dru and the western buttress of the Aiguille Verte, which is known at the Montanvers as the Aiguille Sansnom. The ascent was made from the S. by the long snow couloir between the Pic and the above buttress, taking 5 hrs. of continued step-

\* *Rivista Mensile del C. A. I.*, 1889, p. 107; *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1889, pp. 61-66.

cutting, and thence from the col  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. of fine rock climb led to the top. Fearing ice in the couloir, which, indeed, proved to be the case, they slept at the lower *gîte* on the Charpoua moraine; but with plenty of snow in good order the start might easily be made at midnight from the Montanvers. They estimated the height at about 70 to 100 feet higher than the Grand Dru, and it is, perhaps, worth recording that the Montanvers Hotel is in full view from the summit.

*Sixt District.*

THE DENT JAUNE (3,187 mètres=10,456 feet) (one of the peaks of the Dent du Midi).—*August 13.*—Messrs. Horace Walker and C. Pilkington, without guides, made the first ascent of this peak from the Champéry side.

Starting from Champéry, they followed the route up the Col du Midi to within about an hour of the top of the pass. Here, turning to the left, they easily gained the W. arête of the Dent Jaune in twenty minutes.

Crossing the N.W. face diagonally upwards to the lower of two patches of snow or ice (probably not often there in August), they ascended them, and some very steep rocks above and to the left. Being prevented by smooth ice-covered rocks from gaining the N.E. arête, as they had intended, they were forced to climb a very difficult chimney in the left part of a conspicuous upright limestone cliff; this being the first limestone rock met with on the mountain. Skirting to the right above this cliff they struck the W. arête high up; and by it reached the top in ten minutes more.

Being caught in a violent thunder and hailstorm, they thought it prudent to descend by the same route. It took them five hours to reach the lower point on the W. arête, whence the climb had really begun, the ascent from which point had only taken three hours.

The couloir of the Col du Midi is sometimes swept by falling stones, and although the route up the Col lies on the rocks to the left, the couloir has to be crossed at the foot; this crossing, though only taking ten minutes, is unsafe in the afternoon in bad weather; the party therefore, instead of descending direct to Champéry, completed the ascent of the Col, and returned by the Plan Nevé and the Col de Susanfe, some two hours longer.

*Val de Bagnes and Combin District.*

LA CIARDONNET, 3,256 mètres = 10,680 ft. (Swiss map; see Conway, 'Pennine Guide,' p. 27). *July 11.*—Mr. Walter Leaf, with Clemenz Zurbruggen, of Saas, made the first ascent of this peak. Leaving Mauvoisin at 3.30, and Chermontane at 6.50, the party reached the foot of the N.W. ridge at 8.10. The ascent was made over steep but sound rock and soft snow slopes, the N. extremity of the main ridge being gained at 10.55. This ridge was followed for 1 hr., at first over rocks which gave some good climbing, then over snow slopes on the E. side. The top was reached at 12. It is easily accessible by snow slopes from the upper basin of the nameless lateral glacier on the E. The descent was effected by this side, the Glacier

d'Otemma being reached in 1 hr., and Mauvoisin in about 4 hrs. actual going. Times throughout very slow, owing to the Herr's lamentable want of condition.

**AIGUILLE DE BOTZERESSE**, about 11,000 ft. *July 14.*—It is proposed to give this name to a bold rocky peak very conspicuous from the path just below the Pont de Mauvoisin. It lies in the ridge running N.E. from the point 3,454 in the Swiss map. (This ridge, which overlooks the Alpe de la Liaz, is called locally Les Mulets de la Liaz; but that name is wrongly given in the Swiss map to a ridge which is not even visible from the Alp, running S. from the Tournelon Blanc.) The first ascent was made by G. W. Prothero, R. L. Nettle-ship, and Walter Leaf, with Clemenz Zurbriggen. Starting from Mauvoisin, they mounted to the Glacier de Botzeresse, crossed it near the foot, and reached the arête on its S. side by easy snow slopes in 2 hrs. 30 min. from the hotel. The ridge and rock slopes on its left led to the top in 2 hrs. 45 min. more. The summit overhangs in an extraordinary way, a stone dropped from the edge falling for 8 sec. (about 1,000 ft.) before striking. The descent was by the rotten ribs and couloirs of the S. face, bearing always to the left. The upper grass slopes of the Alpe de la Liaz were reached in 2 hrs. 15 min., and Mauvoisin in 3 hrs. 30 min. actual going from the top.

**POINTE DES PORTONS**, about 3,450 mètres or 11,320 ft. *July 16.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak. The route of the Col des Portons by the Glacier de Breney was followed from Mauvoisin to the top of the steep snow slopes of the N. side. The peak consists of a long nearly level ridge, with three summits. The E. summit was reached from the snow by a wide couloir and steep and not easy rocks. Hence the ridge was followed to the W., all the points, of which the central one is a little the highest, being climbed. The descent was made from the W. peak to the Glacier d'Otemma by easy rocks and snow slopes. Times: Mauvoisin to highest point, 7 hrs. 15 min., thence to W. peak, 55 min., descent to glacier, 1 hr. 20 min.; to Mauvoisin, with much soft snow, about 4 hrs. 30 min., all actual going.

The peak was ascended in the belief that it was the point 3509 of the map, called by Conway *Pointe des Portons*. It turned out afterwards that this was not the case, the point 3,509 being the next to the E., and about 200 ft. higher. The summit climbed has, however, the best right to the title *Pointe des Portons*, as it bears on its W. flank, the side furthest from the point 3,509, the little glacier called *Les Portons*. The other might be called *Pointe de la Petite Lyre*, after the glacier which lies between it and its neighbour. The two are perfectly distinct peaks, separated by a broad snow col.

**MONT PLEUREUR**, by S.W. arête; 3,706 mètres=12,161 ft. *July 23.*—The same party ascended *Mont Pleureur* by this route, which, it is believed, has not been previously taken, though it is probably the easiest and shortest, as well as the most direct, from Mauvoisin. The track of the Col de Seilon was followed for about half an hour beyond the Giétroz Alp, when the lower part of the Glacier de Giétroz

was crossed, and the S.W. arête of Mt. Pleureur reached without difficulty just where the grass ceases. The same point could be easily, and probably more quickly, gained, by mounting grass slopes from the Pont de Mauvoisin direct, bearing always to the right. The arête was followed, with occasional deviations on to the S. face, to the top. It presents no difficulties. Time: Mauvoisin to top, 5 hrs. 35 min. In the descent the S. face was crossed diagonally, and Arolla reached by the Col de Seilon. The route usually taken in the ascent from Mauvoisin is right up the S. face, a way not mentioned by Conway. In ordinary seasons it is an easy climb over rock and débris; this year it was a laborious slope of deep snow.

PETIT COMBIN (3,671 mètres = 12,045 feet); COL DE PANOSSEYRE (ca. 3,400 mètres or 11,150 feet). August 10.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge and Mr. Frederick Gardiner, with young Christian Almer and his brother Rudolf, starting from the hut near the foot of the Col des Maisons Blanches (built by the Balleys of Bourg Saint Pierre\*), crossed that col, traversed the head of the Corbassière glacier in a northerly direction, and striking the W. arête of the Combin de Corbassière (3,722 mètres) just E. of a low mound between it and the point marked 3,625 mètres, ascended the Combin de Corbassière by the usual route (4 hrs. 25 min. walking from the hut). Returning in a few minutes to the lowest point of the W. arête of the peak, the party bore N.W. across a snow basin, and by the broken rocks of the E. arête of the peak gained the summit of the Petit Combin (3,671 mètres) in 40 min. from its higher neighbour. The Lac de Champey was a very striking feature in the wonderful view. Descending by the snowy S.W. arête, the party traversed round the head of the snow basin between the peaks, and reached (in 25 min.) the opening immediately E. of the point 3,625 and W. of the mound already mentioned. Easy shale and snow led down to the N. branch of the Corbassière glacier. This was traversed to the south till near the foot of the col between 3,653 mètres and 3,649 mètres, which was attained by a short climb up snow and rocks (40 min. from the opening E. of 3,625). This col is named Col de Panosseyre on the Siegfried map (it is also known as the Col de Boveyre), but no height is there given; it appeared to be about 800 feet (250 mètres) lower than the peak, 3,649 mètres. The descent lay down the fine Boveyre glacier, the right side of which was followed without serious difficulty to the point (not far from 2,740 mètres of the map) where it turns abruptly to the W. A lofty moraine then led to its right bank (1.25 from the col), the grassy slopes of which were followed to the lower Boveyre chalets (30 min.), whence a rather intricate descent past the conspicuous lake on the Plan Mondzo (35 min.) and through a fine forest to its S.W. brought the party (in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. more) to the highroad between Liddes and Bourg Saint Pierre, rather to the S. of the village of Allèves. Half an

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\* The S. A. C. Club hut, which was constructed in the autumn of 1889 a little below the W. side of the col, was carried away by an avalanche in the spring of 1890, and its relics are now scattered far and wide over the rocks leading up to the col.

hour more along this road took them to Bourg Saint Pierre after a glorious round on an absolutely perfect day.

The Petit Combin is said to have been reached from the Serey valley to the N. by a hunter.\* It was certainly reached from the Combin de Corbassière (by a route similar to that described above) on July 25, 1890, by MM. Charles de la Harpe and Edmond W. Viollier (both of Geneva), with Justin Bessard, of Chables. On the paper which they left in their cairn on the summit these gentlemen state (apparently on Bessard's authority) that the local name of the peak is Mont Foulaz, the name Petit Combin properly belonging to the peak 3,649 S. of the Col de Panosseyre.

The Col de Panosseyre does not seem to have been previously traversed by travellers—at least no passage is recorded in Alpine literature.† It is more interesting than the Col des Maisons Blanches, though not so direct a route from Mauvoisin to Bourg Saint Pierre. It is figured (with the Combin de Corbassière looking over it) in the illustration facing p. 129 of the S.A.C. 'Jahrbuch,' vol. xix., and is very conspicuous from the Lac de Champey.

MONT VÉLAN BY THE S.E. FACE. August 16.—Messrs. W. M. Conway, Ellis Carr, and F. M. Davies, with Ulrich Kauffmann and Joseph Marie Lochmatter as guides, having reached the summit of the Vélán by the usual Valsorey route, descended by the S.E. face into the Val d'Ollomont. The S.E. face is seamed by three conspicuous couloirs. The central couloir descends from near the summit, in the angle between the S. and S.E. arêtes. The W. couloir (that on the left seen from Ollomont or Aosta) starts down from a broad col in the main S. ridge, and presently joins the central couloir. Mr. Conway's party descended the S.E. arête for  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. They then went down the rocks, first on the left and then on the right of the central couloir, thus reaching the broad snow col in the S. arête in 1 hr. from the summit. They now descended the W. couloir, returning by it into the central couloir, and thus, in 1 hr., reaching a grassy mound at its foot. They traversed for 1 hr. a vast area of stone débris and grass to the Cordon Alp, where the route from the Col de Valsorey was joined. They descended the valley path to Valpelline, and drove down to Aosta the same evening—18 hrs. from Bourg S. Pierre.

AIGUILLES DE LUISSETTES, 3,418 mètres (wrongly named M. Tre Fratelli on the Italian map), COL DE LUISSETTES, and COL VERT.

\* Studer. *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, vol. ii. p. 265.

† The notices of an expedition made by Herr Gottlieb Studer on August 12, 1858, which are to be found in *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, 1st series, p. 124; Mr. Ball's *Western Alps*, p. 274; Herr G. Studer's *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, vol. ii. p. 265; and the *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, vol. iv. p. 576, refer to his ascent of the Pointe d'Azet (3,135 mètres) from the Serey glen, and his descent to Bourg Saint-Pierre by the Col de l'Âne, or de l'Azet, route over the pastures of Coeur and Boveyre. This peak lies a good bit to the north of the Combin de Corbassière group, while the Col de Panosseyre lies some way to the south of the same *massif*. The apparent allusion to this col in *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. i. p. 244, must be a slip, as it is really meant to refer to Herr Studer's ascent, mentioned above.

August 18.—Messrs. Ellis Carr, W. M. Conway, and F. M. Davies, with the guides Ulrich Kauffmann and J. M. Lochmatter, left the Zeneco Alp (opposite the By Alp) at the head of the Val d'Ollomont at 5.10 A.M. They mounted in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the snow-field below the Trois Frères (3,270 mètres, Swiss map). They got on to the snow, and traversed it to the N., skirting the base of all the Aiguilles de Valsorey and of the Aiguilles de Luisettes, and thus in  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. reached an island of rock lying S. of the end of the S. buttress of the West Aiguille Verte de Valsorey. Here the party divided. Mr. Carr and Kauffmann went in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. over the easy névé of the W. branch of the By glacier to the Col de Luisettes at its head. From the col they ascended easy snow and rotten rocks in 20 min. to the E. summit of the Aiguilles de Luisettes; thence the central summit was reached in 5 min., and the W. summit in 5 min. more. They returned to the col, and then went for a short distance eastwards along the ridge. They were forced to cross the steep N. face of the West Aiguille Verte de Valsorey, cutting steps for some  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. in blue ice, before they could reach a point whence it was possible to descend the very steep snow-wall that leads down (in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr.) to the névé of the Sonadon glacier. Here they presently joined the remainder of the party, who, meanwhile, had crossed the Col Vert. From the rock-island where Mr. Carr left them they had gone in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. over gently-inclined snow-field to the col, which lies between the West and East Aiguilles Vertes de Valsorey. The crest of the col is formed of a ridge of very green serpentine rock. The descent to the N. was made down broken rocks and steep snow in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. to the névé of the Sonadon glacier. The reunited party crossed the névé in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hr. (going very slowly) to the Col de Sonadon, and descended to Chermontane. The Col Vert would probably be useful to persons desiring to ascend the Grand Combin from Italy. Both cols enable travellers to cross the Sonadon col without touching the dangerous couloir.

#### *Arolla District.*

DENT PERROC, from N.W.; 3,680 mètres = 12,074 ft. July 28.—Messrs. Leaf, Prothero, and Nettleship, with Clemenz Zurbriggen and Aloys Kalbermatten, of Saas, made the first ascent from this side. The N.W. arête divides halfway down into two main branches, one running nearly due N., and bounding the small lateral glacier on the N. face of the mountain; the other continuing nearly N.W. The latter branch was reached by the Zarmine Alp and easy rock and débris slopes in 3 hrs. from Arolla. It was followed without difficulty for some time, but the party were soon forced on to the face between the two branches of the arête, consisting of large sloping slabs offering arduous clambering. After 2 hrs. 45 min. from the foot of the arête the point of junction with the N. branch was reached, and it was then seen that if the ascent had been made by the latter, much time and labour might have been saved, though a fine climb would have been lost. From here the N. peak of the mountain (11,992 ft.) was gained by fairly easy but steep rocks and snow. The traverse of the arête between the N. and

central peaks took nearly an hour of stiff climbing. Time to the top, 8 hrs. 40 min. actual going. Descent by ordinary route.

It appears from an entry in the Visitors' Book at Arolla that the N. peak had previously been ascended from Ferpèche on September 1, 1886, by Mr. J. A. Vardy,\* with Jean and Pierre Maître, of Evolena. Their stone man was found on the top.

DENT PERROC, N. peak, by the N. arête (3,655 mètres = 11,992 ft.). July 31.—Mr. Alfred G. Topham, with Jean Maître and his brother Antoine, having passed the night at the Zarmine cow châtlet under the Petite Dent de Veisivi, started at 2.30 and made for the Zarmine Glacier. At the head of this is a big snow couloir, which leads to a col separating the Dent Perroc from the Grande Dent de Veisivi. They ascended the couloir in 2 hrs., about 100 ft. from the top having to take to the rocks on the left side. Later in the day this couloir would be exceedingly dangerous. The first gendarme on the arête being quite perpendicular on the N. and W. side, a traverse on the E. face led to rocks by which it was ascended. The arête is very long and jagged, and for the first half is composed of sharp teeth, which give place to steep snow up to the summit. One tooth in particular is like a knife-edge at an angle of 45° for about 120 ft., and the descent has to be made along it, grasping the edge, the feet hanging down the east face. The snow arête was found to be sharp and dangerously corniced. The route that had to be followed was alongside the cornice, and frequently under it to within a short distance of the top, when it was found practicable to get on to the top of the snow. The summit of the north peak was reached at 11.30 (4½ hrs. going along the arête). The central peak (12,074 ft.) was reached in 50 min. The ordinary line of descent could not be taken owing to the state of the mountain.

DENT DE ZALLION (3,518 mètres = 11,558 ft.). August 13.—Messrs. Corbett, Townley, Meares, and Echalez (guide, Pierre Gaspoz) ascended this peak. The route was mainly that taken by Mr. A. Cust in his ascent of the Za, August 11, 1875 (see p. 90 of the Visitors' Book at the Arolla Hotel). The ordinary Za route was followed for ½ hr., when a N.E. course was taken, over grass slopes for ¾ hr., and across a moraine for ¼ hr., to some rocks (partially grass-covered on south) which descend from the Dent de Zallion towards the châtlets of Zallion. These rocks were ascended on the S., chiefly by the grass, in 25 min., and some slopes of boulder and avalanche snow traversed to

\* With reference to this ascent, which has not been previously recorded in the Journal, Mr. Vardy writes as follows:—

'On August 31, 1886, we left Ferpèche about 6 P.M., proceeded about half-way up the Mont Miné glacier towards the fall, then ascended by turf and rocks to a place just below the shoulder underneath the N. point (about 3 hrs. from Ferpèche), and slept on the rocks. About 4 A.M., on September 1, started across glacier, and ascended [the E. face of the mountain] by slopes and rather steep rocks to arête, which we reached rather south of the N. point— which point we reached between 10 and 11 A.M. We made a small cairn. We then followed the arête southwards to central peak, which we reached about 1 P.M., and from which we descended to Arolla by usual route. Saw chamois cross the glacier just below us in descending.'

the base of the mountain in further 25 min.; then straight up the rocks for 20 min., and by easy snow slopes for  $1\frac{1}{4}$  hr. to the summit, which is less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. N. of the col reached by Mr. Cust in the expedition before referred to. No trace was found of any previous ascent. The peak commands a very fine view.

The S. arête was followed to Mr. Cust's Col de la Za,\* and thence for an hour to a point (higher than the Dent de Zallion) just N. of the couloir generally used in the ascent of the Za. The highest point of the arête is a very small and sharp aiguille, severed from the main ridge by a deep cleft, but no difficulty was found in climbing it from the E. side.

The descent was made by the N. Col de Bertol, by the route usually taken in returning from the Za.

CRÊTE DE PLAN (3,396 mètres=11,135 ft). *August 16.*—The same party, with the addition of Mr. C. E. Groves (guide, Martin Vuignier), ascended the highest point, marked 3,396 on the Swiss map, of the Crête, which encloses the Glacier de Bertol on the S. side and which terminates in the Plan de Bertol. The ascent was made in about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  hrs. from the usual halting-place below the Glacier de Bertol, proceeding in an eastwardly direction by easy snow slopes extending to near the final summit, which was reached by the rocks of the N. face. No trace was found of any previous ascent.

POINTE DE BERTOL (3,507 mètres=11,523 ft). *August 18.*—The same party, with the exception of Mr. Groves (with Vuignier and Gaspoz as guides), ascended the peak marked 3,507 on the Swiss map, which separates the N. and S. Cols de Bertol. Passing through the 'false' col, immediately N. of the S. Col de Bertol, they skirted the mountain for nearly 10 min., and then struck up rocks to the E. (rock) arête, which was followed to the summit. Time from leaving snow to the top,  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. The descent was made for a short distance by the same arête, and thence by easy snow slopes to the N. Col de Bertol, which was reached in less than an hour.

Though there is no record of any previous ascent of this peak, either in the Visitors' Book at the Arolla Hotel, in Mr. Larden's MS. Guide to Arolla, or in Mr. Conway's book, a cairn was found on the summit, and it was stated by the guides that previous ascents had been made by the snow slopes from the N. Col de Bertol, though not by the E. arête. The peak commands a very fine view.

THE ZORTECONDOI (3,268 mètres, 3,050 mètres). *August 20.*—Messrs. Corbett and Townley (with Gaspoz as guide) ascended these peaks, marked 3,268 and 3,050 respectively on the Swiss map, from the col connecting the Glacier de Vouasson with the very steep Glacier de Merdéré, passing along the ridge over both peaks to the Col de la Meina. The ascent to the principal peak was an easy walk of a few minutes. The passage of the arête thence to the smaller peak took about an hour, and the descent to the Col de la Meina about 20 min. The arête is a very rotten ridge of shale, but presents no difficulty. The peaks command fine views, much like that from the Pic d'Arzinol, but inferior to that from the Pointe de Vouasson.

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. vii. p. 318; vol. viii. p. 12.

There appears to be no record of any previous ascent of these peaks, but Gaspoz stated that they had been traversed by chamois hunters, and the remains of small cairns were found on the summits.

MONT COLLON BY THE N. FACE. *August 13.*—Mr. J. Hopkinson, with Jean Maitre as guide and Antoine Maitre as porter, left the Arolla Hotel at 3.30. Their route was by the arête which rises from that point of the Arolla glacier where it ascends steeply to the left, and which passes immediately to the right of a glacier two-thirds of the height of a mountain. Jean Maitre had carefully studied the route for some time before, and had determined to try it with some one. The moraine of the Arolla glacier was left at 5.30. They first crossed a patch of snow lying on the face of the mountain immediately above the moraine, then got on to a ledge on the rock, and traversed to the right, leaving the ledge presently, and continuing on the rock till a somewhat rough and wide arête was reached at 6.30. They went up this arête, bending towards the left to the uppermost point of the cone of black rock as seen from the hotel, which appears from the hotel immediately below the above-mentioned glacier. The arête now bends to the right, and they followed it to a point at which it is cut, the gap being partially filled with very steep snow. This point was chosen for breakfast, and half an hour's rest taken here. They went on at 8, avoided the gap by a détour to the left, on to the glacier, and took to the arête on the other side of the gap. The arête now ascends directly; it is steep, and consists alternately of snow and rock. The snow was in excellent condition, or it would not have been wise to attempt it. The arête is finally stopped by the séracs of the upper glacier. This point was reached at 9.30. A considerable amount of ice had to be cut from these séracs to admit a passage slightly to the left. To get fairly on to the snow-fields above took till 12.15. All difficulty of moment was now over. The upper crevasse was crossed to the right, and the summit reached about 1.15. Generally the rock by this route is delightful, fairly sound, and not too easy. The snow is very steep, and would not be practicable to descend unless in perfect condition. The séracs work on this occasion was very formidable, and most exhausting for the guide.

The repetition of the route is not recommended; it is long in any case, and under some circumstances would be dangerous.

PETIT MONT COLLON (3,545 mètres = 11,631 feet from the N.W.). *August 18.*—The same party, with the addition of Mr. Hopkinson's son, ascended by the arête which runs out towards the Pigne d'Arolla, passed along the whole length of the ridge, and descended by the ridge running out towards Mont Collon. The rocks all along were as rotten as they could be. If climbed frequently, so that the loose stones would be kicked away, this would be a very attractive excursion.

#### *The Valpelline.*

COL DE CRÉTON (3,324 mètres = 10,906 feet). *August 20.*—Messrs. W. M. Conway, Ellis Carr, and F. M. Davies, with the guides Ulrich Kauffmann and J. M. Lochmatter, left the little Prerayen Inn in doubtful weather, at 6.10 A.M. They followed the main valley

path, crossed the Za-de-Zan stream, and mounted a good cow-path to the Bellaza huts. The path then becomes a goat track, and finally a chamois track, conducting to a point where the right moraine of the S. branch of the Grand Glacier Bellaza abuts against the red cliffs of its N. bank. Here there is a stinking chamois rendezvous. The place was reached in 2 hrs. from Prerayen. They now got on to the glacier and mounted it, eventually keeping close to or on the rocks of its N. bank, and thus reaching the col in about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  or 2 hrs. There are two cols at the head of this glacier: the Col de Créton is the more northerly; the other is the Col du Château des Dames. They are divided from one another by a peak called Mont Blanc de Créton. North of the Col de Créton is the point (3,583 mètres) wrongly marked Becca Créton on the Italian map. Its real name is Tour de Créton. The Bec de Créton is further N. still. From the col they went a few yards N. and then commenced the descent down a steep chinney. This led into a great couloir, down which they went, or the rocks beside it, taking shelter from a thunderstorm under an overhanging rock. They descended the couloir very rapidly to the top of the great waterfall at its foot, and then they traversed (or should have traversed) continually to the left, following grass-covered ledges and crossing two or three waterfalls on the way. They thus got off the foot of the great rock wall on to the *débris* slope in some  $2\frac{1}{4}$  hrs. from the col. A path was found which led in about  $\frac{1}{4}$  hr. to the Bayettes Alp, whence Breuil was reached in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr.

#### Monte Rosa District.

OBBER-GABELHORN BY THE N. FACE (4,073 mètres = 13,364 feet). July 28.—Mr. C. M. Thompson and Mr. G. Broke, with Aloys Pollinger and Adolf Andenmatten, having reached the top of the Ober-Gabelhorn from Zermatt by the ordinary route at 8.45, descended for an hour towards the Arbenjoch, but finding the N.W. face of the mountain coated with hard ice they traversed across to the N.W. arête, which they descended till above the first small patch of rocks on the N. face, just under the ridge. Finding the snow below these safe, though soft, they then went straight down the N. face, reaching the plateau at the bottom of the snow-wall at 11.10, where a halt of 10 min. was made. The seracs below this gave a good deal of trouble, but the ladder at the foot of the Triftjoch rocks was reached at 12.20, and the return made to Zermatt by that route.

The passage through the seracs presumably coincided more or less with the first part of Mr. Jose's route up the Wellenkuppe from the W.\*

WELLENKUPPE AND OBERGABELHORN. August 1.—Mr. L. Norman-Néruda, with Chr. Klucker, of Sils, left the Mountet Hut at 3.18 A.M. in the direction of the Trift-Joch, at the foot of the rocks of which they turned to the right, found a way through the séracs and schrunds until good snow was reached, crossed a kind of bergschrund, got on to very hard ice, and had to cut steps for  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours to reach the base

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\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 124.

of the snow-peak of the Wellenkuppe. The peak itself was reached at 9.3 A.M. Left at 10.1 A.M. and followed the ridge connecting the Wellenkuppe and the Obergabelhorn (which would be hardly practicable unless the snow and ice were in perfect order), cutting steps into the steep wall of snow and ice until the rocks of the Obergabelhorn were reached at 11.40. They now climbed the rocks (this part of the new route is *not* new) and reached the summit at 12.40 P.M. Left 1.5 P.M. by the same route, returning to Wellenkuppe at 3.20 P.M. Left 3.33 for Zermatt by the ordinary route. In Zermatt 7.30 P.M.

LYSKAMM FROM THE N.E. August 2.—The same party and Josef Reinstadler from Sulden left the Riffelhaus at 1.27 A.M., crossed the Gorner glacier, and reached 'Auf'm Fels' at 4.33 A.M. Left 5.13, following Lysjoch route for a short time. They then turned to the right and, after getting nearer the mountain, again to the left in direction of the Lysjoch. When a point straight under the summit was reached, the party again turned to the right and crossed the bergschrund at 7.45 and climbed straight upwards, over snow and ice and difficult rocks, until the summit was reached at 2.25 P.M. Left 2.58 by ordinary Lysjoch route. Lysjoch at 5 P.M. Platje at 7.25, Riffelhaus 10 P.M. This route is not to be recommended.

PORTIENGRAT (3,661 mètres=12,008 feet) BY THE W. FACE.—On August 11 Messrs. A. F. de Fonblanque and G. F. Berney, with Xaver Imseng, and Moriz Imseng, left the Almagell Alp Châlets at 2.50 A.M. Keeping left of the ordinary route the way lay straight up the middle of the Rothplatt glacier, the point made for being that where the glacier runs furthest up the W. face of the peak. The bergschrund (conspicuous from Fée) was crossed at its extreme north, and the rocks just above it were reached at 5.30, and afforded a good breakfast-place. Starting again at 6, the glacier was ascended diagonally to the right for 15 min., and the rocks of the W. face were ultimately taken to a point directly beneath the summit. The way then lay straight up these rocks, which were in places covered with snow. There were a few troublesome bits at first; but the rocks, though steep, were sound, and on the whole not difficult, and the passage of certain points which might at times offer considerable difficulty was facilitated by the snow, which was in splendid condition. The S. arête was struck a few feet below the summit, which was reached at 8. The descent was made by the ordinary route.

DESCENT OF THE TÄSCHHORN BY THE E. FACE.—On August 23 the same party (with the substitution of Theodor Andermatten for Moriz Imseng) ascended the Täschhorn by Mr. Jackson's Mischabeljoch route.\*

The bivouac on the Langefluh was left at 1 A.M., the Mischabeljoch being reached at 5, and the summit at 10.15. On account of the great length of the arête and the violence of the wind on it, it was decided to make the descent by the rocks on the E. face, which appeared to offer a more direct route, and were out of the wind. These are the rocks by which Messrs. Watson and Wethered's ascent was completed,† but Mr. Wethered's opinion as to the practicability

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. p. 345.

† *Ibid.* vol. ix. pp. 200-8.

of the descent does not appear to have been verified hitherto. The start was made at 11.15, and the foot of the rocks was reached in 3 hrs. The rocks (which were almost entirely free from snow) were at first very rotten, but they improved lower down, and the face was throughout quite free from falling stones. From the foot of the rocks Messrs. Watson and Wethered's route (which lies for some distance over the Mischabeljoch track) was quitted, and the party, keeping somewhat to the left, went down the Fée glacier in a N.E. direction, leaving the point 3,148 on the right, and hitting off the route from the Dom sleeping-place, not far from the foot of the Eggfluh. The descent of the glacier was tedious and somewhat troublesome, as the ice was mostly bare, and a great deal of step-cutting was necessary. The hotel at Fée was reached *viâ* the Gletscher Alp at 8.30 P.M. Judging from Mr. Wethered's account there cannot be much difference in point of time between the two routes.

INNERE LOCKER SPITZE (about 11,800 feet). *August 23.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge and Mr. W. M. Conway, with young Christian Almer, made the first ascent of this peak. It is a limestone mass, N. of the Äusser Barrhorn, from which it is separated by a group of remarkably steep little needles. The party started from S. Niklaus at 6 A.M., and reached the Walkersmatt in 2½ hrs. Thence they followed a *Wasserleitung*, and the stream that supplies it, for 2¼ hrs. to a pool on the right bank of the N. branch of the Stelli gl. There is no resemblance whatever between the true plan of this glacier and that depicted on the map. They traversed the glacier in 35 min., and so reached the rocks at the foot of the E. face, and right under the summit. They mounted diagonally to the right up the very rotten rocks, finally reaching the N. arête (1½ hr.), by means of an ice gully. They followed the arête, in 20 min., to the top. In the descent they went further down the arête (25 min.), and then turned down the easy rocks of the E. face (20 min.) to the snow. They glissaded down to and crossed the glacier (10 min.) to the pond visited in the ascent. S. Niklaus was reached in 2¼ hrs. The next, and lower, peak further N. (Äussere Locker Sp.) seems to have been the one climbed by Mr. Anderson,\* and described as an ascent of the Äusser Barrhorn.

#### *Bernese Oberland.*

STRAHLEGGHÖRNER. *July 11.*—Mr. Henry Bowyear, with Rudolf and Peter Almer, having slept the previous night at the Schwarzegg Hut, made what is believed to be the third ascent of the Strahlegg-horn.† Mr. Bowyear seems to have somewhat varied Mr. Schuster's line of ascent, having cut up a steep snow slope on the N. face of the peak to a point rather less than half-way up the E. arête. This snow would probably not exist in ordinary years. The descent was made

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\* August 5, 1882. *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 118.

† See Mr. Schuster's account of his ascent in 1888 (*Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 157), from which it appears that the peak had been previously ascended by a Swiss gentleman.

almost wholly by the N. face, the arête being touched only for a short distance about half-way down, whence the route of the ascent was followed. The ascent took about 1 hr. from the pass, and the descent nearly as long, owing to the great care necessary, in consequence of the amount of new snow on the somewhat rotten rocks. Mr. Bowyear fully confirms Mr. Schuster's account of the beauty of the view and the interest of the climb. The party descended from the Strahlegg Pass to the Grimsel.

*July 18.*—The same party, having been driven back from an attempt on the Finsternarhorn by the dangerous condition of the snow on the Agassiz Joch, ascended from the Finsteraar Joch by easy snow slopes to the peak of the Strahlegghörner, marked 3,488 mètres on the Siegfried map. This peak would appear to be the highest of the range, the Strahlegghorn proper being marked on the same map as 3,462 mètres in height. The party then descended by the same route to a considerable glacier basin on the W. of the peak, and thence followed a sharp snow and rock arête running in a N. and N.W. direction to the summit of the peak which immediately overhangs the Finsteraar Joch, and which rises from it by a steep rock ridge; marked 3,390 mètres on the map. The party then again descended to the glacier basin, and leaving, it is believed, the peak marked 3,453 mètres on the Siegfried map on the right, made in a N.E. direction for the next point on the main ridge, which appeared to be somewhat higher. This peak was ascended by the southern arête without difficulty. The descent was made for some distance by a rock ridge running down the west face of the mountain, and then transversely across the various ridges and couloirs on the N.W. face of the ridge, the Obereismeer being reached at a point not far from where the route from the Strahlegg Pass is joined. No traces of previous ascents were found, and small cairns were erected on each of the peaks ascended. The expedition was one of great beauty, and offered no difficulty. The views from the first and third of the peaks ascended, down the fine precipices on the E., and of the great peaks on all sides, were exceptionally beautiful, and the range certainly deserves more attention than it has hitherto received.

*VIESCHERHÖRNER. July 16.*—The same party, and the Rev. T. H. Philpott, with Christian Almer, senior, and Christian Roth, having passed the previous night at the Bergli Hut, started at 2.45 A.M. for the Gross Viescherhorn. The ascent was made almost wholly by the N.W. arête, which was struck considerably to the N.W. of the point marked 3,705 mètres on the Siegfried map, and the summit was reached about 8.30 A.M. The view was magnificent. The weather seeming favourable, Messrs. Philpott and Bowyear determined to join parties and cross the Ochsenhorn to the Obereismeer, and so descend to Grindelwald. They accordingly sent back Christian Roth and Peter Almer to take down the things which had been left in the Bergli Hut, and with Christian and Rudolf Almer descended the S.E. arête for a short distance, and then, turning to the left, made their way to the great snow-basin spoken of by Mr. Coolidge

in his account of the first ascent of the two peaks in one day.\* The N.W. arête of the Ochsenhorn was followed to the summit, which was reached about 11.15 A.M. The actual summit was a tiny pinnacle of snow on the crest of a huge cornice, on which only one man could venture at a time. As clouds were gathering rapidly in the valleys no time was lost on the top. The party descended a short distance by the S.E. arête, and then turning to the left some way above the Ochsenjoch, made straight down the tremendously steep slopes and hanging glacier on the E. face, the Ochsenjoch route being eventually joined considerably below the pass. Considerable difficulty, increased by a severe thunderstorm, was experienced in finding a way down the broken glacier, which at length became impracticable. A way was, however, found by descending for some distance a very steep ridge of rocks to the right, lying almost immediately under the summit, and being apparently the northernmost of the rock ridges running down the E. face of the mountain. The line taken is believed to be in great part new, and is not to be recommended except early in the day, and when the snow is in good condition. The party reached the Bäregg Châlet at about 5.30 P.M., and descended to Grindelwald. This appears to be the first time that the two peaks have been traversed in one day from the Bergli to Grindelwald, Mr. Coolidge having descended from the Ochsenhorn to the Concordia Hut.† The time taken from the Bergli to the Bäregg was 14½ hours, and no long stoppages were made. The snow was in bad condition nearly all the way after leaving the top of the Gross Viescherhorn, and in more favourable circumstances the expedition would probably take considerably less time.

DOLDENHORN (3,647 m.=11,960 ft). August 10.—Mr. G. Stallard and Mr. A. L. Ormerod, with Johannes Ogi-Müller and Abraham Müller, of Kandersteg, made the first ascent of this peak from the Gasterenthal. Sleeping under some convenient rocks immediately above Selden, by the advice of one Künzi, a Gasterenthal *Gemsjäger*, who was said to be well acquainted with the S. side of the mountain, they left their bivouac at 3.45 A.M., and by the advice of the guides traversed the side of the mountain for about 4 hrs. (having to cross a great many troublesome rocky gullies) to reach the small glacier shown on the Federal map on the W. side of the great arête which runs due S. from the summit. They then had two or three hours' easy snow and rock-débris work, succeeded by many very steep snow slopes and shelving slabs of smooth and rotten rock, with occasional climbs up very fine rock-couloirs for many hours, trying repeatedly to get on to the S. arête, but being compelled to keep below it on the left the whole time. At last, at 6.45 P.M., when it seemed almost certain that they would have to spend a second night on the mountain, they got on to the arête, and a quarter of an hour's easy walking led them to the top. They got down to the Spitzstein, on the N. side, at 8.30, and losing their way in the Biberg eventually reached the Victoria at Kandersteg at 1.45 A.M.

This route cannot be strongly recommended, but they think that a party sleeping up near the small glacier ought to reach the top by mid-

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 156.

† *Ibid.*

day. This glacier could no doubt be easily reached by way of the Gabel, by following the stream which runs from it into the Kander about two miles below Selden. They were so late in reaching the real point of attack that the snow slopes on the W. of the great S. arête were in a very soft and (in the opinion of the guides) dangerous condition, and had to be traversed with great caution. The rock-climbing on the S. side of the mountain is in many places extremely difficult, but in the difficult places the rocks are sound. The great S. arête is so much broken that it cannot be followed, except just below the summit. They think it would be possible to climb straight up from Selden without great difficulty to the point where the S. arête appears on the Federal map to divide.

KLEIN LOHNER (2,591 m. = 8,492 ft.). *August 6.*—The same party made the first ascent of this little peak from the Adelboden side of the Allmengrat. It is a pleasant rock-climb, with a difficult scramble up a couloir to get on to the arête. They erected a cairn, visible from the Victoria at Kandersteg, on one of the highest points.

GROSSHORN (3,765 m. = 12,345 ft.). *August 23.*—The same gentlemen, with A. Müller and J. Rubin, of Ried, made the first recorded ascent by English travellers of this mountain. Starting from Ried at 1.20 A.M., they went up a little to the E. of the Jägiknubel, and then up snow slopes to the top, which they reached at 8.45 A.M. The upper slopes are extremely steep, and would entail a great deal of step-cutting if the snow were very hard, and would be dangerous to descend if the snow were very soft. Leaving the top at 9.15, they reached Ried at 4.5, going very slowly, and stopping for more than an hour on the way. The panorama from the summit is one of extraordinary magnificence.\*

#### *Uri Alps.*

THE GLETSCHHORN (3,307 mètres = 10,850 feet). *August 1, 1890.*—Messrs. Legh S. Powell and Frank Gare, without guides, made the ascent of this peak from the Tiefengletscher inn on the Furka road. A start was made at 3.45 A.M. The route taken was by the left bank

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\* Studer, in *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, vol. iv. p. 78, says that the first ascent of the Grosshorn was made by Herr Wyss from the Schmadrijoch on July 29, 1875. After a time the party were compelled to leave the corniced arête, and unroped and traversed a snow slope of 70°–75° on the S. side, and then inclining to the N., reached the Mittagjoch, from which, by bearing to the W., the top was soon reached. Time from the Schmadrijoch, 3 hours. It appears, on referring to the map, that some mistake must have been made in this description, as the Grosshorn lies between the Schmadrijoch and Mittagjoch, and a passage from the one pass to the other on the S. side seems to be impossible. It is also stated in the visitors' book at Ried that Dr. Dübli ascended the mountain from Ried on September 8, 1869 (six years earlier), leaving Ried at 3 A.M., reaching the top at 2 P.M., and getting back to Ried at 1 A.M. Moreover, there is a second entry in the Ried book to this effect: 'Dr. H. Dübli und Fritz Wyss-Wyss von Trachsellaunen über Schmadrijoch (Besteigung des Grosshorns): Abreise zum Bivouac am Jägiknubel, 12 hrs. 30 min.,' July 30, 1875. In Studer's account it is stated that Dr. Dübli was ill, and had to be left on the Schmadrijoch while the ascent of the Grosshorn was made. The only other recorded ascent is that made by Dr. Emil Burekhardt (with J. Rubin) in 1885.

of the Tiefengletscher to the termination of the S.W. arête of the peak; then, turning this, the snow slopes at the base of the rocks were ascended as far as the S.W. face of the mountain. The rocks of this face were now taken at what appeared to be the only practicable point—viz., to the left of a narrow and very steep snow couloir, situated to the right of the face in question. After a few minutes' climb up these a slight eminence was reached, whence a good view of the face was obtained. From here the route lay up a narrow ridge of rocks dividing two long snow and ice couloirs. Arrived at the head of these, a depression between the higher and lower pinnacle of the summit was shortly afterwards attained, and then a short final scramble to the left led to the highest point. No cairn having been previously erected, two small piles of stones were built, one being on the actual summit, an obelisk of granite some 6 or 8 feet high.

The time taken from the inn to the foot of the rocks was 4 hrs. 15 min., and the rock climb to the summit took 1 hr. 15 min. The granite rocks are tolerably steep nearly all the way, but afford excellent hold, and are free from falling stones. By making a fairly early start the rather tedious snow slopes leading to the face attacked may be ascended before the sun reaches them.

It may be mentioned that by a short deviation to the right from the foot of the rocks in descending, the well-known Cristallhöhle may be visited.

The Gletschhorn was ascended by Herr Huber, on September 12, 1888, from the Göschenenalp.\* The ascent under notice appears to be the first by Englishmen, and by a new route.

#### *Lepontine Alps.*

WASENHORN or PUNTA TERRAROSSA (3,255 mètres = 10,675 ft. Siegfried; 3,247 m. = 10,649 ft. Ital. map). *August 27.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge and Mr. W. M. Conway, with young Christian Almer, having reached the summit of this mountain from Berisal by the N.W. face and N. arête, descended to Veglia by a new route. They started down the steep, but at first very easy, rocks of the E. face, bearing somewhat to the left for a time, and then back to the right. They descended by ridges and gullies of rock, zigzag, and eventually got into the great snow couloir, which leads down to the Aurona glacier, and lies between the red rocks of the main S. arête and the black rocks of a great S.E. buttress, conspicuous from Veglia. They reached the bergschrund at the foot of the great couloir in 3 hrs. from the top. Thence it took 20 min. to the foot of the Aurona glacier, and 50 min. on to the Veglia inn.

BITTERPASS, *August 31.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge and Mr. W. M. Conway, with young Christian Almer, having reached the summit of the Ritterpass from Veglia by the usual way, returned to Veglia by a new route. They passed westwards from the col along the watershed, and then, bearing left, they went along the crest of a

\* *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, '89-'90, p. 173.

buttress ridge (which descends from a point W. of the col to the point marked 2,621 mètres on the Italian map). Leaving this ridge, they went down a snow-slope W. of it, and then, bearing left, they descended some débris-slopes among rock precipices, and so gained access to the floor of the N.E. branch of the Mottiscia glen. They followed a path along the right bank of the Mottiscia stream to the Veglia inn, which was reached in 2 hrs. from the col. In their opinion this route, if somewhat more circuitous, is preferable to that usually followed.

PEAK MARKED 2,925 MÈTRES (= 9,625 feet) on the Siegfried Map. *September 8.*—Mr. F. Baker-Gabb and a friend, with Emmanuel Imseng, of Saas Fee, as guide, made the first ascent of this peak, which lies between the Bochtenhorn and Schienhorn. Starting from the Hôtel Ofenhorn, at Binn, they followed the path leading to the Albrun Pass as far as the bridge which crosses the stream from the Ofen-gletscher at Stahlquelle (2½ hours). They then mounted to the right over large boulders and snow to a well-marked depression in the N. ridge of the Bochtenhorn (4 hours from Binn). Descending from this on to the glacier, they crossed directly to the peak, ascended by the rocks on the N. face to the N.E. arête, and then, by the S.E. face immediately under the arête, reached the foot of the final pinnacle without difficulty. The ascent of this (about 120 feet) gave great trouble, the rope having to be looped and thrown up over a projecting rock before an overhanging block, which barred the bottom of a chimney, could be climbed. The summit was gained in 5¾ hours' actual walking from Binn, and no trace of any previous ascent was found. The party, after building a stone man, descended by a traverse of the S.E. face to the col between the peak ascended and the Schienhorn; they then crossed the col between the point marked 2,904 mètres and the Kollerhorn, and struck the valley path near the bridge, opposite Imfeld. The route taken in returning is far the most direct, the descent to Binn being made in 3¼ hours from the top, excluding halts. The times were slow, owing to a heavy fall of snow shortly before.

#### *Bernina District.*

PIZ FORA (3,370 mètres = 11,057 ft.). *July 2.*—Mr. L. Norman-Néruda, with guide Christian Klucker, left Sils-Mariant 8.27 A.M., walked through the Val Fex until they reached the Fex glacier, then ascended in a straight line up the glacier. As soon as they reached the séracs they turned to the right, and, after some difficulty in crossing a schrund, the final snow-cone was climbed at 2.13 P.M. Left at 2.27 over same route, and arrived at Sils-Maria at 5.55. Generally the Piz Fora is ascended from the Val Fedoz.

PIZ TREMOGGIA (3,452 mètres = 11,328 ft.). *July 4.*—The same party left Sils Maria at 5.42 A.M., ascended through the Val Fex as far as Mott Selvas, then turned to the left, and by crossing the Curuxellas reached the eastern branch of the Fex glacier. Thence over the moraine and the glacier until the centre of the west face of the mountain was touched. The bergschrund was crossed at 10.20 A.M.,

and the summit reached by ascending a fine couloir and the final snow-field. Time 11.57. Left 12.57 P.M. by the south-west rock arête towards the Tremoggia pass, and returned to Sils Maria at 6.55 P.M. Both the line of ascent and that of descent appear to be new.

*Bernina Group.*

MONTE DI SCERSCEN (3,967 mètres = 13,011 ft.). *July 9.*—The same party left the Roseg Restaurant at 2.25 A.M. for the Tschierva glacier, passed the Piz Humor on its right (looking towards the Scerscen), then turned towards the Güssfeldt Sattel and breakfasted about 200 yards from its bergschrund at 7.12; left at 7.42, crossed bergschrund right under the 'Schneehaube,' and climbed the snow and ice-wall until, at 9.21, the rocks of the 'Schneehaube' were reached. They then turned to the left and traversed across to the séracs, wound their way through them (this is the only part of the new route that could be called at all dangerous), and reached the glacier, which extends as far as the rocks of the summit, at 10.45. Left 11.20 in a straight line for summit, and, climbing some rather disagreeable ice-covered rocks, stood on top of mountain at 1.4 P.M. Left 1.38, descended over the same route, crossed bergschrund at 3.40, and entered the Roseg Restaurant at 7.27 P.M.

PIZ ROSEG (3,943 mètres = 12,928 ft.). *July 16.*—The same party left the Roseg Restaurant at 1.5 A.M. over the same route as for the Scerscen until they were right opposite the north-east face, turned to the right and crossed the bergschrund straight under the depression between the summit and the Schneekuppe. Thence they ascended in a straight line until the middle of the face was reached, when they crossed an ice-couloir towards the left, and got on to one of the enormous ice-falls. Now they again struck upwards and reached the depression between the summit and the Schneekuppe at 12.37. (On measurement the inclination of the north-east face was found to be 50° for the first third, 54½° for the second, 60° for the greater part of the third, and finally 62°). At 1.18 P.M. the party left for the summit by the ordinary route, which was reached at 2.14. Left at 2.16, depression 2.50, Schneekuppe 3.8. Left 3.23 by ordinary route. Arrived Mortel Hut at 5.45, and Roseg Restaurant at 7.26 P.M.

PIZ BERNINA (4,052 m.=13,187 ft.) *July 18.*—The same party left the Boval Hut at 3.15, and one hour later crossed the bergschrund of the great couloir at the right of the Labyrinth route and very conspicuous from the Boval Hut. They ascended by this couloir, the height of which is about 1,500 ft., and in some parts very steep. Top of couloir 7.23 A.M. At 8.35 breakfast was taken on the 'Sass del Repos.' Went on 9.8 in a nearly straight line until the double bergschrund underneath the summit was reached. They now turned to the right to find a suitable point for crossing. This was accomplished at 10.21. They had now to proceed with great care, for the condition of the snow was very bad, the snow-wall very steep; but at 12.25 the rocks of the arête were reached at a point under the rock-head, whence the descent into the 'Bernina Scharte' is made. These rocks were in very bad condition, and, although not higher than about 150 ft., they took two

hours to climb. Thus at 2.25 P.M. the arête was reached; but as a thunderstorm had gathered it was deemed prudent not to climb the summit, but to descend to the Roseg Valley by way of the Pizzo Bianco and the Fuorcla Prievlusa. Before reaching the Pizzo Bianco, however, the party were in the middle of the thunderstorm and had to seek shelter on the Morteratsch side of the arête and could not proceed before 5.25 P.M. The bergschrund was crossed by lantern-light and the Roseg Restaurant reached at 11.30 P.M.

#### *Silvretta.*

GROSS-SEEHORN (3,124 mètres = 10,242 ft.). GROSS-LITZNER\* (3,108 mètres = 10,191 ft.). July 24.—Mr. L. Norman-Néruda, with Klucker, left the Sardasca Alp at 4.43 A.M. by ordinary route as far as the foot of the mountain, then ascended by a rock-couloir straight to the smaller peak, and thence by connecting arête on to the highest summit. Time, 8.27 A.M. Left 9.55 A.M. They now descended, following the entire arête over the ordinary route into the gap between the Gross-Seehorn and the Gross-Litzner. The gap between the Gross-Seehorn and the Gross-Litzner was reached at 10.17, the foot of the mountain at 10.26. The party climbed straight up the first part, then descended on to the Vorarlberg side of the mountain. Now a perpendicular rock-wall of 65 ft. had to be climbed. This was done with considerable difficulty and a patch of snow reached, from where, bearing to the right, the summit was reached at 12.3 P.M. Left at 1.33 by ordinary route, arriving at the Sardasca Alp at 5.10 P.M.

#### *Dolomites.*

MONTE GIRALBA † (ca. 2,900 mètres = 9,500 ft.). This is a peak separated from the Zwölferkofl by the Giralba-Joch, and from the Hochbrünnerschneide by an enormous chasm. On June 18 Mr. L. Norman-Néruda, Dr. Hanns Helversen and Dr. L. Darmstädter, started from the Zsigmondy-Hütte for the Giralba-Joch, thence ascending into depression between lowest and second peaks; climbed latter, and reached the summit easily after crossing gap between it and second peak. The same route was taken in making the descent as far as the depression between lowest and second peak; but then, instead of continuing, they struck down a couloir to the right towards the so-called Innere Loch. Guides Josef and Veit Innerkofler, Stabeler and an Auronzo guide.

#### *Skye.*

SQURR-NA-H-UAMHA.—Mr. C. Pilkington, in his interesting article on 'The Black Coolins,' ‡ mentions an attempted ascent of this fine mountain from Harta Corrie, which failed owing to the smoothness of the rocks.

On July 30 last Messrs. E. Kidson and W. E. Corlett made the ascent

\* [An excellent view of these two peaks and of the ridge joining them will be found in the *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, 1887-8, facing p. 160.]

† *Oest. Alp. Z.*, No. 301, p. 117.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 445.

from Harta Corrie, starting a quarter of a mile or so west of the Bloody Stone.

*Rocky Mountains, Colorado, U.S.A.*

MOUNT WILSON (14,309 feet).—On September 1 Mr. Percy W. Thomas and Mr. N. G. Douglass (of the San Bernardo Mine) ascended this, the highest peak of the San Juan. The start was made on horseback from the cabin at the hot springs of West Dolores at 6.30 A.M., and the foot of the mountain was reached at 9.15. Here the horses were left, and the climb to the summit was effected chiefly by the S.W. arête, where in places the rocks were by no means easy. The summit was gained at 12.40. The descent was made by a couloir not far below the summit, and Trout Lake was reached the same evening at 7.5.

CAUCASUS.

*Central Caucasus.*

STULIE-VSEK PASS.—Mr. W. J. Petherick and I, with two native porters, left Karaoul at 7 A.M. (porters could not be got under weigh earlier) on August 17. We kept on the Stulie-vsek track till we had passed the snout of the Chiri-vsek glacier. We then left the horse path and the Cherek river, ascending a narrow ravine which brought us to an open valley. We followed this some distance, and then struck up grass and stone slopes to the foot of the glacier (12.30 P.M.). Here we met a solitary traveller, and our porters indulged in a long chat. Subsequently we followed a well-trodden path in the snow, and reached the pass at 3 P.M. The mountains were enveloped in cloud, but the porters knew the glacier well, and quitting the tracks (which presumably led towards Gebi) we kept to the right, and after zig-zagging a few crevasses, quitted the ice at 4.30 P.M. Long slopes and scree, ending in a low rocky wall, brought us out on to the débris of a series of avalanches which filled the trough of the valley, bridging the river for a mile or more. Further down we found a faintly-marked track, which we followed till 6 P.M., when we camped. The next morning we continued the descent of the Zeskhu Valley, as we were unable to find any track. Progress through the forest was necessarily very slow, and we did not reach the village of Scena till 3 P.M.

A. F. MUMMERY.

*Southern Valleys.*

August 11.—Our party, consisting of Mr. J. G. Cockin and myself with Ulrich Almer as guide, and a native of Isageri, Merun Formovitch Kugawa, as interpreter and general purveyor, met at Batoum, and started for Kutais the next day.

August 14.—We left Kutais, and following the Mamisson road to about 13 versts beyond Oni, after the usual vexatious delays and consequent irritation, reached Gebi on the afternoon of the 17th.

August 18.—Leaving Gebi we travelled easily for about 8 hrs. along the horsepath leading to the Gurdzi-vsek (Pass) to the top of the preliminary pass over a southern spur which it traverses. We encamped in a thunderstorm on the grassy slope close to the top of the spur which abuts on a peak known to the natives as Isforga, and about

in the position in which the word Gurdzi-vsek is printed on the 5-verst map.

THE ASCENT OF ISFORGA (estimated height about 13,000 feet). *August 19.*—We left our tent at 2.45 A.M. with the view of ascending Isforga. We first followed the ridge under which we were encamped, but finding the gendarmes numerous we descended to the glacier on the right. By this glacier and rocks, which were generally loose and somewhat dangerous on this account, we reached the lower summit at 11. Here we found a stone man, but could discover no record.\* After a rest of over an hour we proceeded to the higher summit, arriving at 12.50 P.M. From the summit we obtained a fine view of the distant group of mountains lying to the W.—Shkara, Janga, Koshtantau, &c. Whilst looking E. we had Boordool close at hand, masking to a great extent the remaining mountains of the Adai Choch group. On descending we made for a depression on the eastern ridge of the mountain, and, varying our route on arriving at the glacier we had ascended in the morning, were unable to reach our tent till 8.45 P.M.

Having rested on the 20th, we on the 21st removed our tent eastwards across the intervening valley to an Alp immediately under Boordool (Mr. Freshfield's Bordjula), which the natives called Mootsansara. As the weather was not promising we remained in camp on the 22nd.

THE ASCENT OF BOORDOOL (14,083 feet). *August 23.*—We started at 2.35 A.M. At 4.25 we had reached the snout of the lower glacier. By 6.35 we had crossed the schrund of the higher glacier, and at 8.50, after a stoppage of  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. for breakfast, we commenced our attack on the S.E. arête of the mountain. The rocks were good, and after an interesting climb of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. we stepped upon the snow-slope leading to the summit, which we gained at 11.30. Freshfield had suggested that the view from the peak would probably settle our plan of campaign for the remainder of our work in the district. But unfortunately, though we remained on the top for more than 2 hrs., we were unable, in consequence of the prevalence of clouds, to see much of the surrounding mountains. We convinced ourselves, however, that the peak we afterwards climbed (Skatikom Choch) was the highest of the group, the double-headed peak near it being probably the second in height, and we judged that these peaks could probably be gained by traversing the snow-field at their base, working first E. and then N. We did not leave the summit till 2.5 P.M., and again varying our route we descended to a depression in the eastern ridge of the mountain, and reached our tent at 5.55.

THE ASCENT OF SKATIKOM CHOCH.—The 24th was a cold, dull day, but the 25th was magnificently fine.

*August 26.*—We started from our camp at 12.30 A.M., and gained the watershed at the point we had crossed on our descent from Boordool at 5.5. Thence across a large snow-field and over rocks to the huge basin of névé lying under the double-headed peak of Mr. Fresh-

\* It appears to have been S. Sella's. See p. 319.

field's map,\* and up the ice-fall to the S.E. arête of our peak. There is nothing striking in the form of this mountain, and there is very little of interest in its ascent. Whilst we were on the top we obtained a view of the tops of all the mountains of the group, with the exception of one lying near and to the E. of us which was in clouds. Our former judgment that we had selected the highest peak of the group, was again confirmed. By the clinometer we ascertained that all the others were below us, we being above the mist by which one was obscured. But the lower parts of all were in mist, so that we could see nothing of the glacier systems of this interesting district. The top was gained at 12.50. On descending we circumvented the rocks we had crossed in the morning, turning to the right when we reached the plateau at the base of the ice-fall, but owing to numerous crevasses our journey was much delayed, and we did not reach the tent till 9 P.M.

Having decided to move westwards, we sent Merun on his own horse on the morning of the 28th in search of horses or men to carry the baggage. He failed to secure either. So we packed everything on one horse and descended to the valley. Here we spent the night in a most picturesque position. The next morning we obtained horses from Chiure, and were able to reach Gebi on the afternoon of the same day.

*August 30.*—We left Gebi for Lashkete, expecting, from the information given us by the natives, to accomplish the journey in little more than a day. The journey was full of incident, but we did not reach our destination till the morning of September 2, and were, of course, detained for hours waiting for horses. We got off late in the afternoon, and having crossed the Latpari Pass, reached Kal on the afternoon of September 3.

*September 4.*—The night we spent in a kosh about 3 hrs. up the Kalde Valley, intending the next morning to attempt Janga from the S.

**AN ATTEMPT ON JANGA (ca. 16,900 feet).** *September 5.*—We started at 3.20, crossed the snout of the glacier, descending from Janga, and gained at 6.55 the foot of what, at a distance and seen end on, had the appearance of a huge buttress of rocks leading to the summit of the mountain. It proved to be an arête, with numerous gendarmes, which, at the height of perhaps 13,500 to 14,000 feet, turned sharply in a westerly direction almost at right angles to the lower part. Up this we worked: then we had to descend to the head of the glacier which flowed down between the arête and the head of the mountain. At last we found ourselves on the face of the mountain. We worked up rocks till five in the afternoon. We calculated we had still two hours' work before us, as there were steep and difficult rocks to be surmounted ere we reached the final slope of ice or snow. Most reluctantly we concluded that the only prudent course was to abandon the climb. We were soon benighted, spent the greater part of the night in descending by lantern-light, and at very considerable risk, the rocks we had easily

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\* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. p. 453.

climbed by daylight, and rejoined the kosh at 11 A.M., and our tent at Kal at 6 P.M. on the 6th.

*September 7.*—In the afternoon we left Kal for Betsho, where we arrived on the evening of the 8th. The weather was unsettled on the 9th, but on the 10th we removed our camp to a ground about a mile above Mezeri and slept out in a kosh on the west side of the northern arête of Ushba, hoping to be able to try the ascent of the mountain by the north arête the next day. We made a start in the morning, but after a couple of hours' work concluded it was absolutely impossible to complete the ascent and return to the camp, or even to the kosh, in one day. I was under the necessity of leaving on the morning of the 12th, so we were compelled to abandon the excursion. I left the camp on the evening of the 12th, and reached Kutais at eight on the morning of the 15th. Cockin remained a few days after my departure, but, experiencing bad weather, was unable to complete the climb of Ushba by the north arête, or do any further mountaineering work.

H. W. HOLDER.

Signor V. Sella—who returned to the Caucasus this year with some Italians to serve as porters for his photographic apparatus, but no guide—has sent to Mr. D. Freshfield, under date 'Batoum, October 12,' the following very interesting account of his long and extensive campaign, the rich results of which will, we hope, form one of the attractions of our winter meeting:—

'After I wrote from Zenaga, in the Uruch Valley [letter not received—D. W. F.], I visited the ranges round the Karagam glacier, and took a panorama from the Gurdzi-vsek peak (13,500 feet), and another from a peak of 12,700 feet on the right (east) of the great glacier. At the end of July bad weather interfered with my work. Then I went to Styr Digor; climbed a peak N. of the village (12,400 feet) and took a panorama; crossed the Stulie-vsek, photographing on the way. South of Karaoul I got views from two points, and a large panorama from the higher, a ridge of 12,950 feet.

'I next crossed to Gebi by a pass W. of the Passi-Mta, called Shari-tau at Balkar, and Mashkapar at Gebi. I ascended Shoda and photographed the view.

'On August 30 I climbed Bordjula by the N.W. ridge, a difficult ascent. On the top I found traces of Messrs. Cockin and Holder's ascent of a few days before (from the south, I think). I saw also their tracks across the great platform of the Karagam glacier towards the highest peak of the Adai Khokh group, which looked to me easy. Did they ascend it?\*

'I failed to secure photographs of the panorama from the top of Bordjula owing to light mists floating up from the Karagam. I could only obtain indifferent views W. of Shkara and the Goribolo. I had this year to put up with much fatigue and disappointment, of which the weather gave me full measure.

'From Gebi I crossed to Ushkul, in Suanetia, by Goribolo, Lapuri, Leahkikilo Pass, Scesqua and Scena valleys. This savage route was

\* See p. 318.

very difficult for the horses, but offered me beautiful views in the forest. I took a panorama of the southern face of Shkara from a point (10,500 ft.) above Ushkul, and several views from the ridge between Adish and Kalde. In the Adish glen I found M. Jukoff's camp: he was absent, but I left him your message.

'I then climbed a peak of 12,650 ft. between Mujal and the Mestia glacier, and obtained a panorama and some large views.

'Next I photographed Ushba from ten different and beautiful points of view, and took about a hundred views in the valleys and villages, many of them instantaneous, and, I hope, likely to prove interesting as illustrations of the Caucasus.

'I risked to be imprisoned in Suanetia! I crossed the Latpari in bad weather with three feet of fresh snow on the pass. At Tiflis I met General Shdanof, who tells me the results of the new survey will be published within two years.

'I found travel in the Caucasus easier than last year. Suanetia in October is a wonder! At the end of November I shall send you a collection of photographs.'

V. SELLA.

### Daghestan.

ON July 26 Mr. George Yeld and I left London *en route* for the Caucasus, taking with us, besides our own baggage, a tent, cooking-kit, and saddle bags, kindly lent by Mr. Hermann Woolley. After spending two days in Constantinople, we embarked by an Austrian Lloyd's steamer, calling at five ports on the Asia Minor coast of the Black Sea, and reached Batoum after an unusually long passage of five days.

At Trebizonde we experienced some difficulty with the authorities, because of some photographs taken by me. A short time before, the Erzeroum massacres had taken place, and all foreigners were eyed with suspicion. We were ordered back to the steamer under escort. At Batoum the Custom-house authorities were civil, allowing all our baggage to pass free of duty. We declared most of it had already paid duty. I found the Russian word 'stravo' (old) efficacious. At Tiflis we were delayed two days, procuring the necessary permit to visit the mountains. A telegram from Herr Radde, who was then at Borjom, to the Vice-Governor of the Caucasus, helped us materially.

The following is a brief diary of our tour:—

August 9.—We left Tiflis with Gerome Realini, of Tiflis, as our interpreter, and travelled by train to Evlak—a station on the Batoum-Baku Railway.

August 10.—Left Evlak at 10.30 A.M., and drove across the dusty steppe to Noncha, which was reached the same night.

August 11.—At 8 A.M. were visited by the Pristeff of Noncha, who had been advised of our journey by telegram from head-quarters. He was very courteous, and procured for us three Lesghians with five horses, natives of Kasi Jumak, who were returning to their country across the mountains. We engaged these men as far as Shin, and rode, escorted by a Cossack, to the village of Geinuk; slept in tent on the balcony of the house. Survey officer mapping this district; very hospitable.

*August 12.*—Proceeded to Shin, discharged the Lesghians, and, after much wrangling and delay, engaged three others with pack-horses. Started for the Salawat, or Shin Pass. Fine scenery; forest magnificent. Camped at 7,400 feet.

*August 13.*—Our intention in entering the district by this route was to climb an outlying peak of the Kurusch group, with a view to studying the mountains we hoped to explore—the five-verst map not intelligible. Peak of Salawat well to the E. of the pass. We were compelled to abandon the idea of climbing, being out of training, and also considerably out of condition, owing to the unpalatable food and hard travelling we had experienced. Spent the remainder of the day at ease. Purchased a sheep, and camped at the foot of pass on the N.E. side of the range, at 8,000 feet, close to the third caravanserai on this route, at the junction of the two torrents which descend from the two Salawat or Shin passes. Landscape very dreary, and entirely bare of vegetation; very steep grass slopes, with herds of horses, sheep, and goats—a startling contrast to the luxuriant scenery on the other side of the range.

*August 14.*—Wild and desolate valley to junction with the main valley leading to Ahti. No trees. Turned sharply to the right. Beautiful meadow, well watered—an oasis: just above the desolate village of Bursch, one hundred houses inhabited during the summer months by Lesghians. Crossed the torrent several times. Descended to village of Knoi. Scenery more interesting. Camped a little below the village at 5,700 feet. Dialect not understood by our Lesghians, but conversed in Turkish. Disturbance between our men and the villagers in the night—nothing serious.

*August 15.*—Continued the descent of the valley. Wild gorges. Tunnel. Turned up the side valley, which leads to Mesa. Difficult path. Wild ravines; torrent at great depth below. Horses performed great feats. Passed most curious earth pinnacles. Corn plots at Mesa good. Camped in bed of a lateral torrent of the main stream at 5,500 feet.

*August 16.*—Left Mesa, 100 houses, on our left by (in parts) difficult path to Echir, 50 houses. In one place the track was so bad that an ice-axe had to be used to make the passage practicable for the horses. Splendid view of Shalbruz (13,679 feet, five-verst map). After passing Echir the track was good. Pass to Kurush, 9,250 feet; glorious view of Basardjusi (14,722 feet, five-verst map). Fog bow. Descent in the dusk. Attacked by dogs. Camped in torrent bed, 7,750 feet.

*August 17.*—To Kurush; 700 houses, the Zermatt of this district, being situated between Shalbruz, Shah Dagh, and Basardjusi. Village council in session on open space outside village. Hospitably treated. In afternoon to camp under Shalbruz. Took with us a native hunter. Camp 9,500 feet.

*August 18.*—Ascended the point of Shalbruz, which is nearer Kurush; probably the one further away is slightly higher. Cairn on summit, other cairns about in every conceivable spot. Native hunter wished us to take a route by which we should certainly have failed to

climb the peak. Followed the route which we had previously marked out for ourselves. Top 11.20 A.M., 13,340 feet aneroid. Fine view. River Samur conspicuous. Saw the Caspian. Descended by a different way, in part over ice and snow to the 'shrine,' or 'church,' much frequented by Mahommedan pilgrims (at a height of 12,000 feet). Very curious place. Rocks red. Found shell fossils. Returned to camp 4.45 P.M.

*August 19.*—Botanised to camp under outer barrier of Shah Dagh (13,951 feet), facing S.W. Height, 9,800 feet. Ordered by secretary of Chief of Ahti to go down to Ahti and present ourselves before the authorities of Ahti. Did not carry out the order. Glorious views of the northern face of Basardjusi, streaming with glaciers; a huge cornice under the summit ridge.

*August 20.*—Ascended a peak in the ridge which runs from the eastern peak of Basardjusi towards Shah Dagh, called by the Kurush hunter, Kishin Dagh, 12,500 feet. Found a cairn on the summit. Mountain covered with what appeared to be volcanic ironstone. View interesting, topographically. Back at camp 2.10 P.M. Crossed pass to Kouba and Kutkashin. Kept to the right and camped opposite the route to Kutkashin at 8,940 feet. Three degrees of frost in the night inside the tent.

*August 21.*—Ravine by which we proposed to complete the tour of Basardjusi looked impassable for horses, a mere torrent gorge, filled up in some places with snow. Not marked on five-verst map. Found a feasible path. Passed pilgrims on the way to Shalbruz shrine. Got up by a fairly often-used track to a height of 11,600 feet on the south side of Basardjusi. We ran short of bread and overworked the horses, which resulted in a mutiny among the men. All put right by the gift of a sheep. Pitched tent in a little hollow above the track. A beautiful spring bubbled out of the mountain side a few feet below the tent platform. One of the men stayed with us, the other two and the interpreter went down to 10,000 feet to a little patch of grass (they were visited by twenty-five ibex next morning). Situation ideal, glorious evening. Views magnificent. No fire. Cold not great, 41 degrees Fah. in the tent, though it froze outside.

*August 22.*—Started at 5.30 on a glorious morning, leaving Ali in charge of the tent. Reached a ridge above the camp. Discussed route, whether we should descend to a large glacier below us, or climb the ridge to our left, which was full of rock towers. Decided for ridge as more interesting. One tower which we thought would take us a long time turned out much better than we expected. Cairns at 12,000 feet, and about 13,000 feet. Then snow began. A little step-cutting on ice. Ridge of snow-dome 700 feet long. Another snow-dome beyond is the actual summit. Reached it at 10.5 A.M. Height, by aneroid, 14,620 feet. Descended in a few minutes to rocks well seen from Kurush. No trace of a previous ascent. Built a small cairn. Returned quickly to camp. Found a horse had been sent up to carry down tent. Descended to the oasis at 10,000 feet. Mounted again to 11,300 feet pass to Bum (and Kutkashin). Descended to 9,100 feet, and camped under Basardjusi in narrow valley by the torrent.

*August 23.*—Descended valley, which soon narrowed to a gorge with room for nothing but the torrent. Were told we should have to cross the torrent twenty-eight times. Seemed to do nothing but jump or ford the streams. Had our mid-day meal in a beautiful little glade. Ferns with fronds 5 feet 8 inches long. Mehemet fell into torrent with one of cameras. Continued descent. Rain (hitherto we had had perfect weather). Rain increased in heaviness. Horses all through the day performed incredible feats. Up and down richly-wooded ridges. Splendid beech trees. Rank, heavy-smelling vegetation. Thunder storm. Everybody wet to the skin. Very hospitably received by *Yusbashi* in his new house at Samaroffka. Height, 4,050 feet.

*August 24.*—Fine view of Basardjusi high above the end of a valley, like Jungfrau from Interlaken. Rocks of peak covered with new snow. All grateful for our escape. Had we been three or four hours later we should have been prisoners in the forest, as it would have been impossible to cross the torrent. Rode *viâ* Bum to Kutkashin. The inhabitants were Tartars and Armenians. Rich vegetation. Every other tree a fruit tree. Vines streaming from the tops of poplar and other large trees. Village market curious sight. Beautiful wooded hills. Left Kutkashin at 2.30 P.M. in a tree horse-carriage. Reached Chelibi at 6.15. Slept under a sort of large verandah of caravanserai. Mosquitoes.

*August 25.*—To Noucha. Mountains shrouded in cloud.

*August 26.*—To Evlak and Tiflis.

The programme of our intended tour to a further group of mountains in Daghestan was curtailed owing to the many delays we had hitherto experienced, and to the bad weather that had set in. We crossed the Dariel, *en route* for Moscow.

Some few photographs were taken, and plants collected.

G. P. BAKER.

## ALPINE NOTES.

THE HÜHNERSTOCK.—On September 15, 1886, we made the first ascent of the Hühnerstock (3,348 mètres) in the Bernese Oberland.\* A point somewhere close by was ascended on July 10, 1889, by Pfarrer Baumgartner, of Brienz, and some friends, but the details at first given did not state the route followed, mentioning only that a peak of 3,340 mètres had been climbed. Hence, in recording this ascent in these pages,† Mr. Coolidge, as Editor, inserted the following note, 3,110 having been unluckily misprinted for 3,310:—‘It is probable that this peak is identical with that marked 3,110 on the Siegfried map, for the 1886 party saw no point near the peak climbed by them which seemed to be as high as a point of 3,340 mètres.’

Pfarrer Baumgartner has now published ‡ an interesting account of

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. pp. 121, 309-313. † *Ibid.* xiv. p. 504.

‡ *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xxv. pp. 126-141.