

Ruapehu' and a first descent over snow and ice to its crateral lake, is also of much interest, and, like Mr. Harper's paper, is illustrated by reproductions of photographs.

W. S. GREEN.

Un Angolo Dimenticato delle Pennine : la Valle di St. Barthélemy.
(Turin : 1895.)

An interesting and valuable monograph on the mountains round this valley, lying between the Valpelline and the Valtournanche, has been issued by SS. Canzio and Mondini. It is reprinted from the pages of the 'Bollettino' for 1894, and will be invaluable to travellers who may have the good fortune to visit that beautiful district. We understand that the curé of the valley intends to make an arrangement whereby, on payment of a small fee, climbers will be enabled to occupy rooms at the sanctuary of Cunei. At St. Barthélemy itself the inn is being greatly improved, and next summer it will probably afford comfortable quarters, so that climbers who are making their plans for 1896 will do well to consider the claims of this little-visited but easily accessible corner of the mountains.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NANGA PARBAT.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—Referring to the subject of mountain sickness, which was mentioned in Dr. Collie's very interesting paper on Nanga Parbat, I may mention that I have climbed mountains in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, and have always found that I suffered from it at great heights, especially when a little out of health or condition; also that the symptoms disappeared altogether when at rest or descending, and were worse in a dry than in a moist climate. I never felt them so much as I once did in the Rockies, at a height of only 14,000 ft.

I may add that the name 'Nanga Parbat' is derived from the Sanscrit, and means 'Naked Mountain.' The natives pronounce it 'Nunga Purbut,' the *u* being sounded as in 'sun' and the *r* rolled. The sound of *a* in 'bat' is, as far as I am aware, unknown in Indian languages.

Your obedient servant,

J. R. OLIVER, Maj.-General.

Army and Navy Club : February 19, 1896.

S. A. C. HUTS.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—As no one else appears as yet to have sounded the alarm, I venture to ask whether you think that through the columns

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of the 'Alpine Journal' the attention of the authorities of the S. A. C. might be drawn to the danger that seems to be threatening the huts they have so nobly provided for the comfort of climbers.

Many of these huts are quite new, and almost every year sees fresh additions with improvements. But each year is also adding to the heaps of *débris* which are growing in front of the doors, heaps which must in time assume alarming proportions, unless some fresh regulation be added to the existing ones for the preservation of cleanliness.

Last year I had the privilege of making use of several of these huts, both in the Oberland and in the Valais. For these comforts I am very grateful to the S. A. C., and my indebtedness to them is in no way diminished by the circumstances I am about to allude to, which are due entirely to the thoughtlessness of climbers and their guides.

In the case of all these huts the heaps of empty tins, egg-shells, tea-leaves, coffee-grounds, &c. &c.—not to mention anything more objectionable—formed, to say the least, an eye-sore. And the state of one was indescribably foul externally.

Would it not be possible for the S. A. C. to direct that no rubbish be left within a certain distance of the hut, or in some cases, perhaps, to mark out a spot for the purpose? The suggestion may seem 'faddy' to some; but, if the future of the huts is fairly considered, I think most will agree that it is time something were done.

Yours obediently,

W. C. COMPTON.

April 8, 1896.

SÜDLENZ-SPITZE, NADELHORN, AND ULRICHSHORN IN ONE DAY.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

101 Mount Street, W.: April 4, 1896.

DEAR SIR,—In the February number of the 'Alpine Journal,' p. 56, it is stated that these three peaks were crossed in one day 'for the first time' last year. This is incorrect. All three peaks were ascended in one day (whether for the first time or not we cannot say) in 1889 by Mr. Walter Cosser and his guides, who started from a bivouac on rocks above Saas-Fee and followed the route described in the 'Journal.'

Yours truly,

J. A. LUTTMAN-JOHNSON.

THE ICE AXE IN SCOTLAND.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—In these days of happily well-pronounced patriotism and general inclination to encourage British industries and British

sports, it is, perhaps, not amiss to draw attention to the spring snow-climbing in Scotland. This sport is now thoroughly well established, and is followed principally by members of 'the Scottish Mountaineering Club,' who are most enthusiastic and able mountaineers. During this last Eastertide over thirty members of the S.M.C., as well as twelve members of the Alpine Club, some of whom are also members of the former, met at Fort William, each armed with an ice axe. At one time or other all were engaged in climbing the icy buttresses or narrow rock ridges, or in forcing their way up the steep gullies on the north face of Ben Nevis, and, though the weather was damp, foggy, and more or less rainy, each one considered that he had enjoyed a rare good time, and those who knew the Alps readily acknowledged that the climbing they had met with on the big Ben and neighbouring mountains was first-rate, from a Swiss, as well as from a Scotch point of view.

This is the golden age for climbing on the mainland in Scotland. It is the equivalent of what was the case a dozen years ago in Skye, Cumberland, and Wales. Victory awaits the bold mountaineer in scores of gruesome gullies headed by huge, uncanny cornices, on hundreds of rugged, frost-rent ridges and faces, and, on dozens of weird pinnacles. I myself saw on one day three good new expeditions being made at once, and had the good fortune to take part in one of them. The character of the climbing is so good that on one ice-clad ridge of 1,500 ft. a party were hard at work for nine hours consecutively.

Rock-climbs of 1,500 to 2,000 ft. abound in Scotland, also snow gullies of a similar height, and glissades were made last year on Ben Nevis of fully 2,000 ft., and this year of over 1,500 ft. The show of ice axes in the umbrella stands in the two principal hotels at Fort William during Eastertide will not soon be forgotten by those who saw them.

I am, Sir, very faithfully yours,

WM. CECIL SLINGSBY.

April 21, 1896.

THE GERMAN-AUSTRIAN ALPINE CLUB AND THE USE OF THE ROPE.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—When travelling in Tyrol last summer we were much surprised by the custom which prevails in the Ortler district of roping travellers and guides together two and two. My husband and I started to climb the Königspitze; at the foot of the steep slope leading to the 'joch' the guides halted to put on the rope. Instead of one rope, however, two were produced, and we were each roped separately to a guide, the men declaring that, as this was the rule of the German-Austrian Alpine Club for that district, they were bound to obey it. This arrangement was persisted in on the descent over the Cedeu Glacier, where a quantity of new snow obscured the numerous crevasses.

The two guides usually walked quite apart, each with his tourist attached, except that occasionally, when guide No. 1 was doubtful whether he was on the brink of a crevasse, guide No. 2 would come up to the same spot to aid in the investigation. The danger of this was so obvious that we refused to continue it.

Shortly afterwards we met two German climbers, who told us the guides' statement was quite correct; the rule had been made by the D.Oe.A.V., in consequence of a fatal accident on the Königspitze, in which the slip of one member of a party of four had dragged down all the others.

Surely this is abandoning a safer method for one which is more dangerous, simply because the safer fails occasionally, and therefore cannot be good mountaineering. In the Badminton volume on 'Mountaineering' Mr. C. T. Dent speaks strongly of the small amount of security afforded by the rope to a party of two, stating that 'it would require superhuman strength for one man to pull another out of a névé crevasse of any depth;' and Sir Frederick Pollock, alluding to the practice of roping a party two and two, says 'the Alpine rule of three should be as inexorable as the rules of arithmetic when the way lies over crevassed snow fields.' In the Ortler Alps, where the majority of the expeditions are over snow, the arguments that might be used in favour of roping two and two in such districts as the Dolomites are clearly inapplicable. It is said that more serious accidents occur on the mountains under the jurisdiction of the D.Oe.A.V. than in any other Alpine region. Is it not possible that the practice of climbing two on a rope may have something to do with this undesirable pre-eminence?

I am, &c.,

F. MAY DICKINSON BERRY.

Our correspondent does good service by calling attention to a practice the existence of which is probably not generally known to English mountaineers. It is difficult to believe that so influential a body as the D. und Oe.A.V. could have made the mistake of founding on a particular instance a general regulation with regard to the use of the rope, binding on all guides within their jurisdiction. Whatever may be the reason for the ordinance, and whatever its wording, there seems to be no doubt that it is liable to be interpreted by the guides in a manner prejudicial to the interests and the safety of mountaineering. We have not the regulation before us, and there may be very possibly some restrictions with regard to its application. Some mountaineers, we are aware, advocate that on rocks, under certain conditions, the system of roping in pairs is preferable. Even with these limitations the view is not one that we can endorse. Such conditions must be of very rare occurrence, and the practice, if permissible at all, should be followed as an exception, not as a rule, and then only on rocks. It appears incredible that a leading Alpine Club should not only sanction, but actually lay down as a rule, that a party crossing crevassed snow fields (and all névé is presumably crevassed) should be roped two and two. Possibly time and trouble may be

saved, but these are matters supremely unimportant as compared with the safety of a party, and in our opinion, in which we shall probably be backed by the great bulk of mountaineers who can speak from authority, the method of roping in pairs is improper, simply because it is dangerous. The safety of a party might be best ensured, if there were one weak member, by detaching him altogether and letting him shift for himself; but such an action would universally be considered so monstrous that there is no need for us to condemn it. Yet to rope the weak man to one other, however skilful, merely doubles the extent of the disaster that would be likely to happen. Places there are, no doubt, in the Alps where the slip of one may possibly lead to the fall of the whole party; but this depends very greatly indeed on the composition of the party, on its arrangement, and on the individual proficiency and steadiness of the members. If there are places where no amount of skill could save a whole party from being dragged down if one were to slip, such places ought not to be climbed at all. In the case of rock mountains, not omitting the Dolomites, we are convinced that the majority would endorse the views we have expressed. There may be, as we have said, some few who will dissent. But in the case of névé and snow mountains there should be no difference of opinion, and the rule is absolute that the party should consist of not less than three, all to be on the same rope. And here it will not be out of place to point out that if a party consists of five all should be on one rope. A traveller and guide roped together alone are running just as much risk when a party of the proper number is near them as when they are alone. If the party consists of six it is often more convenient to use two ropes, three on each, and this method is safe. In the long chapter of Alpine accidents very few instances can be cited of loss of life from the dragging down of a whole party by the slip of one. We do not forget the accidents on the Matterhorn in 1865, that on the Jungfrau in 1887, or the most recent one on the Rothhorn during the last season. In all probability, if the party had on the two first-named occasions been roped two and two lives would have been saved, and possibly in the last-named instance Biner's life might have been spared. On the other hand, instances innumerable might be cited where, on rock and on snow alike, a slip or fall has been checked, and no misfortune whatever has occurred, because there were more than two on the rope. It is to be hoped that the D. und Oe.A.V. will reconsider the matter, and bring their instructions to guides more into harmony with the general opinion on the subject. If the regulation to which our correspondent calls attention is persisted in, English mountaineers will do well either to avoid Tyrol as a field for mountaineering or to take their own guides with them.—[ED.]

THE FACSIMILE OF CHRISTIAN ALMER'S
'FÜHRERBUCH.'

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

Grindelwald :

April 15, 1896.

GEEHRTER HERR REDAKTEUR,—Ich habe dem Herrn Sekretär des 'Alpine Club' einen vollen Bericht der Verhandlungen zwischen meinem Advokaten in London und jenen des Herrn Cunningham der Reproduction meines Führerbuches wegen geschickt. Es hat mir sehr leid gethan, dass die Zeugnisse, welche mir von meinen Freunden in meinem Buche eingeschrieben worden sind, auf solche Art und Weise benutzt worden sind, da weder meine noch meiner Freunden Erlaubniss gegeben worden ist, und weil auch in der Einleitung mein Leben als Führer ganz unrichtig dargestellt ist.

So habe ich mein möglichstes gethan, um dieses in Zukunft zu verhindern. Wie Sie aus dem Bericht sehen werden, ist es mir gelungen ein Versprechen zu erlangen, dass keine Exemplare mehr dieser Reproduction sollen verkauft oder sonst vertheilt werden. Ich habe gar kein Geld erhalten wegen der Exemplaren der Reproduction, welche verkauft worden sind.

Ich hoffe nur, dass meine Englische Freunde verstehen werden, dass ich niemals die Idee gehabt habe, eine solche Benützung von meinem Buche zu machen, oder dasselbe zu verkaufen, und wenn Herr Cunningham sich einbildete, dass ich ihm meine Einwilligung gegeben hatte, so war er gänzlich im Irrthum.

Auf der Bitte des Herrn Capitän Abney wünsche ich beizufügen, dass er meinem Advokaten in London gesagt hat, dass die Reproduction, ob mit seinem Namen veröffentlicht, nicht seine Spekulation war : er hat nur die photographische Arbeit überwacht und seine Auslagen wurden ihm von Herr Cunningham wieder gegeben. Es freut mich desswegen sagen zu können, wie er mich bittet, dass der Herr Capitän hat es mir jetzt ganz klar gemacht, dass er durchaus geglaubt hat, wahrlich und ehrlich, dass ich meine Einwilligung gegeben habe. Desswegen beeile ich mich alles widersprechendes zurückzuziehen, dass ich gegen den Herrn Capitän gesagt oder zu verstehen gegeben habe, in den Briefen und der Erklärung das ich dem Herrn Coolidge geschickt habe um im 'Alpine Journal' benutzt zu sein.

Mit aller Hochachtung und Gruss,

CHRISTIAN ALMER.

(Translation.)

Grindelwald :

April 15, 1896.

HONOURED MR. EDITOR,—I have sent to the Secretary of the Alpine Club a full account of the negotiations between my lawyer in London and those of Mr. Cunningham relating to the reproduction of my 'Führerbuch.' It has caused me much distress that the entries which have been made by my friends in my book should have been made use of in such a manner and fashion, since neither

my permission nor that of my friends was given, and also because in the Introduction my life as a guide has been quite inaccurately described.

So I have done my utmost to prevent this for the future. As you will see from the account sent to the Secretary, I have succeeded in obtaining a promise that no more copies of this reproduction shall be either sold or otherwise put into circulation. I have received no money whatsoever for the copies of the reproduction that have been sold.

I only hope that my English friends will understand that I never have had the idea of making such a use of my book, or of selling the same, and that if Mr. Cunningham thought I gave him my consent he was entirely mistaken.

At Captain Abney's request I wish to add that he has told my lawyer in London that the 'Facsimile,' though published with his name, was not his speculation: he only superintended the photographic part, and was repaid by Mr. Cunningham the [actual out of pocket] expenses incurred. I am pleased, therefore, to be able to say, as he asks me to do, that the Captain has now made it perfectly clear to me that he throughout believed genuinely and honestly that I had given my consent. Hence I hasten to withdraw anything to the contrary that I may have said or implied against the Captain in the letters and declaration that I sent to Mr. Coolidge for use in the 'Alpine Journal.'

With respectful greetings,
CHRISTIAN ALMER.

[The explanatory words in brackets are added at Captain Abney's suggestion and on our own responsibility.—EDITOR 'A. J.']

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

Grindelwald:
April 20, 1896.

SIR,—As I was the means of first communicating Christian Almer's complaint to your readers, I think it right and proper to add here that he has shown me his letter of April 15, and that I concur in all he has said in it.

I am, yours faithfully,
W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

We have received the following letter through Messrs. Paines & Co., Mr. C. D. Cunningham's solicitors:—

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

The Oriental Club, Hanover Square, W.:
April 10, 1896.

SIR,—I was greatly surprised to find that you had, without any previous notice to either Captain Abney or myself, published a letter in the February number of the 'Alpine Journal' from the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, as well as an editorial note which was calculated to lead to a misconception as to our attitude.

I received from you on Wednesday, February 12, a letter enclosing a copy of a declaration made by Almer in the German language, with an intimation that you had received it from him for publication, and that any reply I wished to make must be in your hands by the following Saturday (February 15), when the 'Alpine Journal' went to press. At the same time you wrote to Captain Abney informing him of the purport of your letter to me.

I replied on February 12 that if and when Almer made any complaint to either Captain Abney or myself directly we should be prepared to deal with it, and that anything you might, in the exercise of your editorial discretion, think fit to insert in the 'Alpine Journal' would be entirely on your own responsibility. Notwithstanding this, you published in the 'Journal' not Almer's declaration, but a letter from Mr. Coolidge which had not been communicated to us, and of which we had never previously heard, as well as an editorial note which, to say the least of it, is not quite consistent with the facts.

No reply dealing with the merits of the case was sent to your letters in the first place, because the time you gave for the purpose was insufficient, but more especially because I do not think the 'Alpine Journal' a suitable or proper medium for the discussion of the personal and private affairs either of guides or of members of the Alpine Club, and I am confident that the majority of my fellow-members will share my regret that you should, from whatever reason, have been induced to allow the pages of the 'Journal' to be made use of for such a purpose.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
C. D. CUNNINGHAM.

We have further received the following letter from Messrs. Paines & Co. :—

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

April 27, 1896.

SIR,—We have heard indirectly, but have no reason to doubt the accuracy of our information, that both the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge and Herr Christian Almer intend sending to you for publication in the forthcoming number of the 'Alpine Journal' further communications dealing with the merits of the recent dispute between them and Captain Abney and Mr. Cunningham. We scarcely think that, in view of the letter from Mr. Cunningham we sent to you on the 10th inst., you will continue to open the columns of the 'Journal' to matter of so contentious and inappropriate a nature; but we deem it advisable to remind you that anything affecting our client you may in your discretion insert in the 'Alpine Journal,' at the instance of those gentlemen or otherwise, will be published entirely on your own responsibility and at your own risk.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,
PAINES & Co.

[In the exercise of our editorial discretion we printed in our last number Mr. Coolidge's summary in place of Christian Almer's

affidavit and covering letter. We did so because the former is more concise, and on the whole less forcible in expression. The statements made on Almer's behalf in Mr. Coolidge's letter are substantially identical with those in the affidavit which Mr. Cunningham saw. No inaccuracy whatever has been pointed out in our editorial note.

With regard to the limits between public and private matters, we altogether differ from Mr. Cunningham. We consider the literary ownership in writings such as the entries in guides' 'Führerbücher,' given for use in a particular place and for a special purpose only, to be a matter of interest to all mountaineers; and we hold that Almer had a perfect right to ask a place in our pages for his disclaimer of having given authority for, or approved, the use made of his book and his friends' entries as a literary speculation, and to assert the unquestioned fact that he has received no payment or compensation whatever in respect of that use.

If Mr. Cunningham is of opinion that the members of the Alpine Club are likely to think differently, his obvious course is to lay the whole matter before the Committee. To avoid any possible complaint we have printed here all the letters sent to us on the subject since our last issue, and the correspondence must now, as far as these pages are concerned, cease. The subjoined notes refer to another point arising on our review.—EDITOR *A. J.*]

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a communication, signed 'D. W. F.,' in the February number of the 'Alpine Journal,' in which (at p. 69) the following passage occurs: 'Few even of the most pedantic critics will think the worse of Mr. W. E. Davidson for putting his name under Jungfrau without a G, or of Mr. Coolidge and two other climbers for leaving out the first C in Schreckhorn.'

Whether critics, pedantic or otherwise, will think the worse of the Rev. Mr. Coolidge (or of the other climbers whose names, while publishing to the Alpine world that of their colleague in cacography, 'D. W. F.' more mercifully withholds) for his inaccurate spelling of the word 'Schreckhorn' is a matter to me personally of indifference.

As, however, the earlier portion of the paragraph above quoted is clearly calculated, and presumably designed, to induce those of your readers who have not seen Christian Almer's 'Führerbuch' to believe that I have somewhere therein written Jungfrau without a G, I shall be obliged if you will allow me, on my own behalf, to state that this is not the case. I have not written the word in question either with a G, without a G, or in any other way, from one end of the 'Führerbuch' to the other.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
W. E. DAVIDSON.

[Our reviewer's language was, as Mr. Davidson's quotation shows, in exact accordance with the facts. The slip of the pen referred to occurs in an entry in Almer's 'Führerbuch' describing the joint climbs of Mr. Davidson and a friend, and the first signature under it is 'W. E. Davidson.' Mr. Davidson can hardly need to be reminded that both in law and literature we are all responsible for what we sign. The reviewer made no researches into handwritings in this or in any other instance; nor would they have been material to his object, which Mr. Davidson has probably misunderstood. It never entered into his mind to set up an order of 'colleagues in cacography,' in which it appears from the autograph at the beginning of the volume all who spell Allmer with one *l* would have to be included! To attach the slightest importance to slips of the pen in documents not meant for reproduction or publication would seem to the reviewer foolish, if not worse. His intention was to emphasise the absurdity of this kind of criticism by pointing out an instance in which such a slip had escaped even the microscopic eye of an accomplished ex-secretary of the Alpine Club.—EDITOR A. J.]

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING was held in the Hall of the Club on Tuesday, February 4, at 8.30 P.M., Mr. Charles Pilkington, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club: Messrs. G. A. Arbuthnot, A. M. Bartleet, Capt. L. S. Blackden, R. L. Bowles, E. R. Clarke, C. S. King, Rev. H. Martin, E. H. Spender, Rev. P. S. Whelan.

The HONORARY SECRETARY AND TREASURER presented the accounts for 1895; he explained that he had divided the expenditure into two headings, viz. ordinary and extraordinary. Notwithstanding the fact that the former included 8 months' rent for the old rooms in St. Martin's Place and 6 months' rent for the new premises, or an increase of 128*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* over the previous annual charge for rent, and that wages, light, and firing (costing 27*l.* more than in 1894) were all considered as ordinary expenditure, there was a small excess of 8*l.* 10*s.* 7*d.* in the income over the ordinary expenditure. The only other item under the latter heading which called for any remark was the cost of the 'Alpine Journal,' viz. 112*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, against 62*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.* in 1894. In case members should go a little further back and compare the cost of Vol. XVII., 174*l.*, with the previous vol., XVI., which was but 57*l.*, he pointed out that the former was larger, *i.e.* it contained more pages. The illustrations had been more numerous, but left much to be desired, and he trusted that in future they would be fewer in number and better in quality. The number of copies printed had been increased, and the sale of back numbers had diminished, owing to so many being out of print. Nos. 107 and 116 were no longer to be obtained from the publishers, but the Assistant Secretary had two or three bound copies of Vols. XV. and XVI., which members could obtain from him. Turning to the