

the terrible danger to which they were exposed. And I feel sure that you will be pleased to learn that the contribution to this result of the Italian Alpine Club was officially recognised by the Supreme Command.

Nor, whilst I am on this point, can I forgo the pleasure of quoting once more an eloquent passage from the official record. 'History,' it says, 'speaks with admiration of the achievements of small armies, mere handfuls of men, which crossed the Alps during the winter. But there is no example in the past of a powerful army, nearly a whole nation in arms, encamped in the midst of winter in the Alpine zone—from the solitudes of the Adamello to the icy summits of the Dolomites, from the snowy rocks of Monte Nero to the dreary Carso swept by the N. wind. The task of creating satisfactory conditions of life among such difficulties, especially if one considers the complicated mechanism of a great army, was a very hard one. But all these difficulties were overcome by a power of organisation at least not inferior to that of any other country.'

THE RECORDS OF ATTEMPTS ON AND ASCENTS OF MONTE ROSA
FROM THE ZERMATT SIDE, FROM 1847 TO 1860.

COMPILED FROM THE TRAVELLERS' BOOKS OF THE HÔTEL MONTE
ROSA AT ZERMATT AND OF THE RIFFELHAUS.

By HENRY F. MONTAGNIER.

THE honour of making the first attack on Monte Rosa from the Zermatt side fell to two French travellers—M. Victor Puiseux, the well-known astronomer who long afterwards became Vice-President of the French Alpine Club, and Dr. Edouard Ordinaire, who had already achieved the distinction of being the first climber to make two ascents of Mont Blanc (see 'A.J.' xxx. 130–131). Starting from their bivouac at 'Ob dem See' (Ob See, 2992 metres on the Siegfried map) on August 12, 1847, they succeeded, apparently without much difficulty, in ascending as far as the Silbersattel (4490 metres, and only 148 metres below the summit of the highest peak), beyond which they found it impossible to proceed. The attainment of so great an altitude on a first attempt over unexplored glaciers was a remarkable feat, and it is greatly to be regretted that these two distinguished pioneers did not

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publish a detailed narrative of their expedition.¹ The only account of this climb, written by the climbers themselves, appears to be the following note in the Travellers' Book of the Hôtel Monte Rosa :

M. Ordinaire, professeur à l'École de Médecine de Besançon, et M. Puiseux, professeur à la Faculté des Sciences de la même ville, ont essayé l'ascension de la plus haute cime du Mont Rose ; ils sont partis le 12 août (1847), accompagnés des guides Jean Brantsch ²

¹ Professor Melchior Ulrich—who met MM. Ordinaire and Puiseux in Zermatt on the evening of August 13, 1847—recorded a few details of this expedition in his diary ; but his notes were not published until 1859 (see *Berg und Gletscherfahrten*, vol. i., pp. 252–253).

² This would be Johann Brantschen, 1794–1866, son of Johann Baptist Brantschen, born 1760 (Ruden's *Familien-Statistik*, No. 112).

Hirzel-Escher (*Wanderungen*, pp. 85–98) mentions in 1822 two guides—of considerable experience as one gathers—Johann Baptist Brantschen and Anton Binner. They would be this same Johann, born 1794, or possibly his father, born 1760, and probably Johann Anton Biner, born 1790 (Ruden, No. 86).

Johann is mentioned by Engelhardt (*Das Monte Rosa- und Matterhorn-Gebirg*, p. 74) as his guide in 1848. 'He is one of the most esteemed inhabitants of Zermatt ; does a considerable trade in cattle with Piedmont ; is better versed in affairs and languages (knows French), and especially more trustworthy as to the names of mountains.' (Translated.) The comparison is to his younger brother, Joseph, born 1801, Engelhardt's previous guide.

Malkin, in 1843, says : 'Jean Joseph Brantschen is also good.'

Ball, in *P.P.G.* i. 159, mentions in 1845 'the older guides, Damatter, J. B. Brantschen, and an old hunter of Täsch.' He, like Malkin, must refer to the same Johann (then aged 51) whom on p. 165 he describes as 'an elderly and slow, but safe and steady man,' as by that time his father Johann Baptist would be 85, if alive. Possibly Ruden omits the second Christian name of Baptist, which the son may have also borne.

Joseph Brantschen, the younger brother, 1801–1866, also appears in Desor's *Excursions* in 1839. 'Plusieurs villageois . . . venaient nous offrir leurs services comme guides. . . . L'un d'eux nous plût particulièrement à cause de sa bonne humeur. Il nous dit s'appeler Joseph Brantschen et nous exhiba un certificat signé de plusieurs naturalistes. . . . Je proposai à notre guide de nous faire faire cette course [Weissthor]. Mais il ne voulut pas en entendre parler et me dit d'un ton décidé "C'est impossible, messieurs on ne le traverse que pour aller en pèlerinage à Macugnaga."'

Bulwer's (*Extracts from my Journal* [1852]) reference—'Old Brant-

[Brantschen], Joseph Tagwalder,³ Matthias Tagwalder,⁴ Joseph Moser : après avoir couché en plein air au lieu dit Ob dem See, ils se sont élevés par des pentes de neige entrecoupées de larges crevasses, jusqu'au pied du rocher qui forme le sommet de la chaîne. Là, bien qu'il ne leur restât plus que 500 pieds environ à monter, ils ont reconnu avec leurs guides l'impossibilité de pousser plus loin l'ascension. Toutefois la vue magnifique dont ils ont pu jouir sur le Mont-Blanc, le Mont-Cervin, la Dent Blanche, les Alpes du Simplon et des Grisons, la vallée de Macugnaga, les lacs et les plaines d'Italie, etc., les a amplement dédommagés des fatigues de cette excursion qui s'est achevée sans accident ; ils croient même pouvoir l'indiquer aux voyageurs habitués aux montagnes comme la plus belle course qu'ils puissent faire autour de Zermatt.

A year afterwards to a day, Professor Ulrich of Zurich records the second attempt to reach the summit of Monte Rosa by this route :

August 12 (1848) bestieg ich unter der Führung des Johannes Madutz von Matt (Glarus) und des Matthias zum Taugwald von Zermatt den Monte Rosa. Ich für mich ging wegen des starken Windes nicht weiter als bis auf den Schneekamm [Silbersattel], von welchem aus man in unendlicher Tiefe Macugnaga unter sich sieht. Die beiden andern bestiegen noch die höchste Spitze, die etwa 200–300 Fuss sich über den Kamm erhebt. Sie war aber wegen den mit Eis überzogenen Steine so schwierig zu ersteigen, dass es zwei Stunden dauerte, ehe sie wieder zu mir hinunter kamen. Die Höhe selbst ist kaum ein Paar Schuhe breit, so dass man rings von Abgründen ist. Höchst wahrscheinlich ist dies das erste Mal dass die höchste Spitze des Monte Rosa erstiegen wurde.

MELCH. ULRICH, Prof. in Zürich.

In 1849 Ulrich returned to the attack with two friends—Gottlieb Studer and Gottlieb Lauterburg, of Berne :

August 11 übernachteten die obigen mit Madutz, Johannes zum Taugwald⁵ und Joseph Cronig⁶ eine Stunde jenseits der rothen

schen told us that the Weiss Thor had not been crossed for sixty years previous to the occasion on which he first crossed it, twenty-seven years ago, in company with thirteen others'—is also to Joseph Brantschen, and indicates the year 1825.

³ Probably Johann Joseph zum Taugwald, born 1798, father of the well-known guides Matthäus and Johann zum Taugwald.

⁴ This is certainly Matthäus zum Taugwald, born 1825, as Matthäus is a favourite Christian name in that family, but unknown in the Taugwalders.

⁵ Born 1827, brother of Matthäus who was occupied elsewhere.

⁶ A 'Schaafrhirte' or shepherd (Seitenthäler, 72).

Kumme am Gorner Gletscher in den Gadmen, brachen den 12 August auf gegen 4 Uhr über[schritten] den Gornergletscher und über den Gornerhorngletscher hinauf auf den Schneegrat der die höchste Spitze des Monte Rosa mit dem Nordend verbindet. Der frisch gefallene Schnee machte das Hinaufsteigen sehr mühsam. Auf dem Schneekamm [Silbersattel] war die Aussicht gegen N. ganz hell, gegen S. gebreitete sich ein Meer von Wolken aus, über welche hin die Fläche der Lombardei etwas sichtbar war. Ein Versuch das Nordend zu besteigen scheiterte an dem kalten Wind, es war 1° + Réaum. Das Hinaufsteigen erforderte 7 Stunden, das Hinuntersteigen 3½ Stunden.

These two expeditions are both narrated in Ulrich's work entitled 'Die Seitenthäler des Wallis und der Monterosa,' (Zürich, 1850, pp. 67-78), and in 'Berg- und Gletscher-Fahrten' (Zürich, 1859, pp. 251-294), as well as in 1849 in the 'Mittheilungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zürich,' i. 319-20.

There is no record in either of the Travellers' Books of the ascent on August 22, 1857, by the brothers Schlagintweit and their guides, of whom Peter Taugwalder, 'old Peter' of Matterhorn fame, was the leader. Their journey is described in their monumental work, 'Neue Untersuchungen über die physikalische Geographie der Alpen,' published in 1854.

The next attempt was made from the Riffelhaus on August 15, 1854, by Mr. S. D. Bird (the first Englishman to attack Monte Rosa), who writes but a few lines about his expedition :

'I ascended the Monte Rosa from this inn to within 100 feet of the summit in company with the guides Matthias zum Täuchwald and Biener brothers. The excursion occupied sixteen hours and well repaid the traveller for his' ... [*The last line has been cut off.*]

Mr. Bird published a brief account of his climb in the *Illustrated London News*, xxv. 422, which was reprinted by Mr. Coolidge in 'A.J.' xxiii. 489-490.

The brothers Edmund, J. Grenville, and Christopher Smyth now appear on the scene—the two latter being the first of the future members of the Alpine Club whose names occur in the early history of Monte Rosa.

'August 22, 1854.—Edmund, J. Grenville, and Christopher Smyth [from] Visp [to] Chamonix. Attempted to ascend Monte Rosa, but owing to the weather were obliged' . . . [*The rest is illegible.*]

September 2, 1854. [The same party.]—After an unsuccessful attempt to reach the summit of Monte Rosa (in consequence of bad

weather) on August 22, we started from this hotel (Riffelhaus) at 2.15, September 1, and arrived at the summit about noon. The last 400 feet occupied $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour, and ought not to be attempted except



THE BROTHERS SCHLAGINTWEIT.

On left—Adolph, born 1829, murdered at Kashgar August 27, 1857.

On right—Hermann, born 1826, died 1882.

with first-rate guides. The view, though somewhat obscured by clouds on the Italian side, was magnificent. We arrived here about 7 P.M. We took with us the following guides: Ulrich Lauener of Lauterbrunnen (an excellent Oberland guide, whom we had with

us for a month), Matt. Torquald [zum Taugwald], and his brother [Johann] from Zermatt, and Simon Zybach⁷ from this house, and to their efficient services we attribute our success.

Two climbs on Monte Rosa, made shortly afterwards by Mr. E. S. Kennedy, although not recorded in the Travellers' Book, deserve mention here for the sake of completing the list of early attempts on and ascents of the mountain. He set out from the Riffelhaus at 2 A.M., September 8, 1854, accompanied by the guides Alexander Albrecht⁸ and the two zum Taugwalds, and ascended to a point which he estimated to be about 60 feet below the summit. From here one of the zum Taugwalds set out to reconnoitre. Three-quarters of an hour later he rejoined the party, having ascended to the summit, but the others were too 'benumbed and dispirited' to continue the climb.

On the 11th of the same month Mr. Kennedy returned to the attack, leaving the Riffelhaus at 2 A.M. with Johann and Matthäus zum Taugwald, the waiter of the inn (Benedict Leir), and Mr. Cholmley—a friend who was apparently accompanied by his own guide. The party crossed the glacier directly to the place known as Auf der Platte, instead of passing by Ob See. Mr. Cholmley dropped out before they reached the base of the final cone. At 9.45 Mr. Kennedy and Leir, with the two zum Taugwalds reached the summit, where they found a pole bearing a shirt left by one of the Smyths, nine days earlier. A brief narrative of this expedition by Mr. Kennedy, entitled 'Recent Ascent of Monte Rosa,' appeared in the *Illustrated London News* of October 21, 1854, with a print of the mountain, in which the summit bears a curious resemblance to the Dent de Requin. It reads:

⁷ Dr. Dübi informs me that Simon Zybach was undoubtedly an Oberländer and very probably a relative (possibly a son) of Peter Zybach, the once famous keeper of the Grimsel Hospice (1836–1852). The home of these Zybachs was in Im Oberstein, near Meiringen in the Haslital, where the Christian name of Simon is still frequently met with.

⁸ Mentioned by Engelhardt in 1851 (*Monte Rosa*, p. 228) as 'a capable young man, who was making himself into a guide for the two Visp Valleys.' (Translated.) Albrecht also accompanied Mr. W. Winter Raffles to the summits of the Weisssthor and the Théodule passes and over the Cols d'Hérens and de Collon during the summer of 1854. Mr. Raffles describes him as 'exceedingly intelligent fellow but not at all fond of high passes.' (*Zermatt with the Cols d'Erin and de Collon; and an Ascent of Mont Blanc*. Liverpool, 1854.)

‘On Friday, September 8, 1854, I started from the inn on the Ryffelberg near Zermatt, at 2 A.M., accompanied by Albrecht Alexander and the brothers Turgwald⁹ as guides. We skirted the northern side of the Gorner glacier, and then crossed the glacier itself. The moon was nearly full; and although the sky was cloudless, the great amount of light allowed but few stars to be seen. Around us was a mass of mountain, snow, and glacier—part glittering in the bright moonlight, part buried in deep shadow. The walk was full of interest and excitement, for even at this early hour the high peaks appeared to be indebted to the dawn of day for a greater amount of illumination. It is possible that this was the result of imagination. We were, however, looking forward with some anxiety to the first indication of sunrise, as from it we should be able to form an opinion as to the probable clearness of the coming day; while our spirits were raised considerably above their customary level—for even had external objects not been a sufficient cause of elevation, there still existed the thought that many hours of labour were before us, and that the goal we had proposed was one which few had attempted to reach, and one in the attainment of which still fewer had succeeded.

‘The morning was extremely cold. The pools in the glacier had frozen during the night to a thickness sufficiently great to bear the weight of a youth; and the whole surface of the glacier and icy pool was coated over with a hoar-frost that sparkled beautifully in the light of the moon, and crunched beneath the foot with that peculiar sound which everyone has experienced on a bright frosty morning in England. After a walk over snow and glacier of eight or nine hours, we reached a point which, to the best of my judgment, is about 60 feet below the summit. Before this, all the guides had expressed doubt and hesitation. Here, however, one of the Turgwalds went on first in order to ascertain whether further ascent were practicable. He gained the summit; but, upon his return, at the end of three-quarters of an hour, we were too benumbed and dispirited to climb further; and were consequently obliged to return to the Ryffelberg, much chagrined at the failure.

‘However, on Monday, September 11, I again made the attempt, and was accompanied by Johann and Matthias zum Turgwald as guides, by Benedict Leir, the waiter at the inn

⁹ Query, Durchwald [Zumtaugwald].

at Zermatt, an active young fellow, who has been to the summit of Mont Blanc, and by Mr. Cholmley—each of my companions having his own guide. We started at 2 o'clock A.M., and took a more direct and better route, crossing to a spot called Auf der Platte, instead of passing by that called Ob den See. We reached the snow plateau, at the base of the cone, at 8.30 ; but I regretted to find that we had travelled too rapidly, and that Mr. Cholmley had, in consequence, fallen somewhat behind : this lost ground he never recovered. After waiting upon the plateau for rest and food, we commenced the last climb at 9. This is by far the most difficult part of the whole course. The cone is a very steep rock, about 400 feet in height : its hollows and crevices were filled with hard and slippery ice. It should be clambered up as quickly as possible : to remain stationary, as I did on the first ascent, is a fatal error ; for so great is the cold that, if the hand (wet with snow) be allowed to rest upon the rock for about a minute, it becomes frozen. Upon the authority of Leir, I may state that . . . the last climb of 400 feet required for Monte Rosa exceeds in difficulty any part of Mont Blanc ; it occurs, too, at a time when great exertion is peculiarly trying. We reached the summit at 9.45, and remained half an hour. We planted a red flag upon the pole, in addition to Mr. Smyth's shirt, which we left still floating in the breeze. I had been fortunate as to weather in many ascents, but it had never, I think, fallen to my lot to survey so gorgeous a panorama. The sky overhead and around, as far as the eye could reach, was a glorious deep purple blue. To the south, Italy was partially clouded ; but the sun shining brightly on the masses of vapour, floating at a depth of probably 8000 feet below us, formed a far more beautiful picture than would have been presented by the uninteresting plains of Lombardy. We gazed down upon the valleys that penetrate to the foot of Monte Rosa, and could trace the stream of the Anza, from its glacier source to the point where it is lost in the Lago Maggiore. To the east, in the far distance, rose the mountains of Tyrol. On the north, we looked down upon the Bernese Oberland, clearly distinguishing, far below us, the summit of nearly every mountain. On the north-west, we could perceive the Jura, and the ridges that rise by the Lake of Geneva. On the west, our mighty rival raised his haughty head, turning toward us (as if in anger at our downward glance), his harshest and most rugged aspect. And far again to the south-west, we saw the towering Mont Cenis, with a

long and unknown mountain range stretching away until lost in a blue haze that we could readily believe to be the Mediterranean.

‘The summit is very remarkable. It is not compact rock, but consists of a number of huge and irregular stones that appear to have been thrown together by the action of some powerful agent. They seem to be partly mountain limestone, and partly micaceous and quartose schist, interspersed with a large quantity of talc and slate. It may be rash to form an opinion as to the origin of this remarkable cone, and I would therefore only throw out the suggestion that the summit may formerly have been considerably higher and more compact. Numerous and well-known causes of disruption may have worked together, and the time would arrive when the mountain peak would crack and separate up into innumerable masses of varied shape and size. The cone as now seen would be the result.’

The following year, we find two of the Smyth brothers again in the field with three friends, among whom was Charles Hudson, who was destined to meet with so tragic a fate on the Matterhorn ten years later.

July 31, 1855. J. G. and Christopher Smyth.—Accompanied by the following friends, J. Birkbeck, C. Hudson, and E. J. Stevenson, we ascended M. Rosa from this inn (the Riffelberg), and succeeded in reaching the *very* highest point. This point had not been hitherto attained, for the part of the higher ridge reached [the Ostspitze] by ourselves (Sept. 1, 1854) and by Mr. Kennedy (Sept. 11, 1854) lies eastward of the summit, and is found to be twenty feet lower, but this difference is hardly to be distinguished on the spot. This [the Ostspitze] is the point which the guides of Professor Studer [Ulrich] reached in 1848 and the brothers Schlagintweit in 1851. The latter part of the ascent is extremely difficult, but the view from the summit amply repaid us for the fatigue and cold of such an expedition. Monte Viso and the Maritime Alps were distinctly visible. Guides: Ulrich Lauener of Lauterbrunnen, Matthias and Johann Tourquald [zum Taugwald] of Zermatt.

In July 1856, the Rev. Christopher Smyth wrote the following résumé of the early history of the mountain in the Travellers' Book of the Riffelhaus :

A few words relative to Monte Rosa and to the various attempts which have been made to reach the summit of that mountain may not be wholly uninteresting to travellers.

Monte Silvio—the name now applied by the Italians exclusively to

the Matterhorn—is supposed to have been the original appellation of the entire range, but more especially of Monte Rosa and its culminating point.

The ridges of Monte Rosa take roughly the form of a cross, the highest peaks being situated on the northern and southern arms of the cross. They occur in the following order: Nord End, Höchste Spitze, Zumstein Spitze, Signal Kuppe, Schwarzhorn, Parrot Spitze, Vincent Pyramid, Ludwigshöhe. The first four of these are all about 15,000 feet in height. All have been ascended except the Nord End which is probably impracticable.

M. de Saussure, of Geneva, in his '*Voyages dans les Alpes*' (Neuchâtel, 1796), first called attention to this mountain. He spent much time in the Piedmontese valleys examining into its geological and other physical peculiarities. After a careful survey, he estimated its height at something like forty or fifty feet higher than Mont Blanc. This estimation is doubtless too high, and has been accordingly corrected by other observers. Baron von Zach makes it 14,196 feet French, or 15,370 feet English. Zumstein makes the height of Monte Rosa 14,460 feet French, or 15,665 feet English; Schlagintweit, 14,240 feet French, or 15,426 feet English.

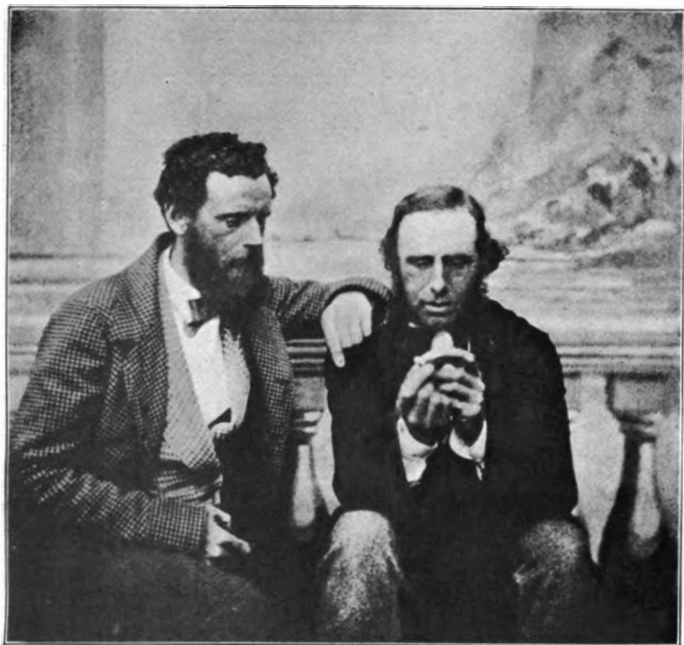
The first attempts to ascend Monte Rosa were made from the Italian side. Between the years 1817–1822 Parrot, Ludwig von Welden, and Zumstein reached the points which respectively bear their names. Herr Vincent (Georg, a brother of Zumstein?) also ascended the Vincent Pyramid. Zumstein erected an iron cross on the summit of the Zumstein Spitze in the year 1822. This was visible in 1855 from the Höchste Spitze. He ascertained that the highest point of Monte Rosa was quite inaccessible from the side of Italy. The Signal Kuppe was reached in 1842 by the present Curé of Alagna.

The earliest attempt on this side (as far as I can learn) was made by two French professors—Ordinaire and Puiseux—in the year 1847. They slept on a rock at the foot of Monte Rosa, and reached the snow-ridge or 'sattel' [Silbersattel], as it is called, which connects the Nord End and Höchste Spitze, about 380 feet below the summit.

1848. August 12.—Professor Ulrich of Zurich, with two guides, Johann Madutz of Canton Glarus and Matthias zum Taugwald, slept at a place named Gadmen, and reached the same ridge. Here the Professor remained taking observations. The guides meanwhile ascended the steep rocks which form the Höchste Spitze and reached a point some twenty feet below the summit.

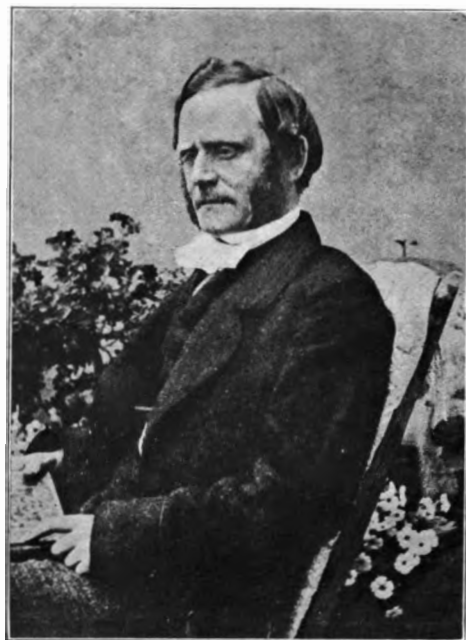
1849. August 12.—Professors Ulrich and Studer ascended to the snow-ridge. Professor Studer attempted to reach the Nord End, but was deterred by the precipitous nature of the ridge.

1851.—The brothers Schlagintweit ascended the snow-ridge and thence to the point previously attained by the guides in 1848. By very careful observations they made out this point to be twenty-two feet below the summit. To pass from one to the other they

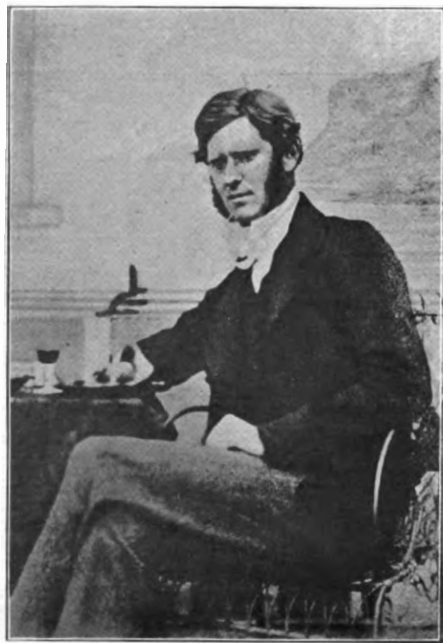


CAPTAIN EDMUND SMYTH,
1823—1911.

C. AINSLIE,
1820—1863.



THE REV. J. GRENVILLE SMYTH,
1825—1907.



THE REV. CHRISTOPHER SMYTH,
1827—1900.



THE REV. F. T. WETHERED
in 1875.

considered impracticable. The valuable results of their scientific observations have been published in Dresden.

Some three or four attempts followed, but on no occasion was any point gained higher than the snow-ridge.

1854. September 1.—Mr. Edmund, now Captain Smyth (Turkish contingent), Rev. J. G. Smyth, and myself [Christopher Smyth], after an unsuccessful attempt in consequence of bad weather, reached the point previously attained by the Schlagintweits. We considered the precipitous ridge interposing between us and the actual summit, though not absolutely inaccessible, yet very dangerous. We were deterred, too, from attempting it by the clouds which were rapidly rising from the Italian side.

1854. September 11.—Mr. E. S. Kennedy reached the same point.

1855. July 31.—Rev. J. G. Smyth, with three friends, Rev. C. Hudson, Mr. Birkbeck, and Mr. Stephenson, ascended from the Ryffel Hotel. The guides were pursuing the usual route towards the 'sattel' when we, profiting by former experience, determined on trying to ascend the steep snows to the westward of the summit and thus reaching it from the other end of the ridge. Our plan perfectly succeeded, and about 10 A.M. the actual summit was attained for the first time. A small stone pillar was erected as a proof of our success. This route has since been always adopted by the guides.

There is little difficulty in the ascent of Monte Rosa except in the last 600 or 700 feet. Many steps have generally to be cut in two very steep slopes of snow inclined at an angle of 44°. This is followed by a path along a ridge of mixed rocks and snow, far more difficult and hazardous than anything met with in the ascent of Mont Blanc.

The view from the summit of Monte Rosa is, in my opinion, superior to that from Mont Blanc. The plains of Lombardy, with its lakes of Lugano, Maggiore, Varese, form a lovely contrast to the savage grandeur of the snowy peaks in every other direction. The Höchste Spitze is composed of mica-schist, with veins of quartz . . . [*The rest has been cut off*].

August 3, 1855. WILLIAM C. TEMPLER.—With Ulrich Lauener of Lauterbrunnen and Fritz Mentschard ¹⁰ of Grindelwald, I started this morning for the summit of Monte Rosa. I succeeded in attaining the base of the very highest peak, but was prevented from going up to look over by an exceedingly high wind, which my guides thought could not be encountered without great danger, as the last portion of the ascent consists of steps cut by the leading guide in the snowy ice. The rarity of the air was very trying.

¹⁰ Friedrich Mütschard, in Lütchenthal, who appears in the 1856 list of the Interlaken district among 'Führer erster Klasse.'

August 14, 1855. F. VAUGHAN HAWKINS and H. W. WATSON.—Ascended Monte Rosa on the 14th with Theodore Fuchs and Stephan [zum] Taugwald as guides, who gave us every satisfaction.

August 15, 1855.—Gestern Dienstag den 14 August (1855), Morgens kurz nach 5 Uhr, setzten sich zwei Parthieen in Bewegung, im ganzen 10 Personen, um den Monte Rosa zu besteigen. Mittags gegen zwei Uhr wurde der höchste Gipfel von allen glücklich erreicht und Abends gegen 8 Uhr waren alle auch wohlbehalten wieder zurück. Der Himmel war oben hell und klar und ebenso die nächste ungemein grossartige Umgebung. Der Montblanc, die Jungfrau und übrige Bergkuppen lagen ebenfalls deutlich vor den Blicken; eider aber waren die meisten Thäler mit einem Wolkenschleierl überzogen! Die eine der beiden Parthieen, zu welcher die Unterzeichneten gehörten, halte die Brüder Peter ¹¹ und Johannes zum Taugwald zu Führern. Diese beiden wackeren Männer sind mit Recht jedem Bergreisenden als in jeder Beziehung höchst zuverlässig zu empfehlen und wir glauben deshalb ganz besonders aufmerksam machen zu dürfen.

J. J. WEILENMANN,¹² v. St. Gallen;

J. BUCHER, Gerichtsschreiber, v. Regensburg,
Zürich;

Dr. E. v. KAUSLER, Archivrath aus Stuttgart.

August 20, 1855. E. BRENT PREST, B. ST. JOHN MATHEWS, C. C. EGERTON, and C. F. RANDOLPH.—Stayed four days in the Riffelberg and were very much pleased with the accommodation afforded by and the attention of M. Seiler. Would strongly recommend the excursion to the Cima di Jazzi. Went to the foot of the highest peak of Monte Rosa with three guides, where the state of the ice rendered further progress inadvisable without a larger number of guides. Up to the foot of the second peak . . . [*The rest has been cut off.*]

August 25, 1855. K. A. CHAPMAN,¹³—Ascended Monte Rosa accompanied by Stephan [zum] Taugwald of Zermatt and two guides of Chamonix. Found Taugwald a most efficient guide and perfectly competent to undertake this duty. My guides from Chamonix . . . Zacharie Cachat and Jean Couttet.

September 17, 1855. E. H. GREG.—Started at 4 A.M. for Monte

¹¹ Peter is not a name known to Ruden's list of the Zum Taugwald family. Either Peter Taugwalder is meant—one of the conquerors of the Matterhorn, who was married to a first cousin of M. and J. zum Taugwald, or Peter may be a mistake for Matthäus.

¹² Weilenmann published accounts of his ascent in the *Zeitschrift für allgemeine Erdkunde*, new series, vol. i. 1856, and in his well-known work *Aus der Firnenwelt*, Leipzig, 1872 (pp. 203–230, 'Besteigung der Höchsten Spitzze (Dufour-Spitze) des Monte-Rosa').

¹³ See *A.J.* xxxi. p. 222 note.

Rosa and reached the first summit at 12. Did not go on to the highest (100 feet higher) as it was late and we wished to return to Zermatt. Found it very dangerous and difficult indeed. Day superb. The fatigue from the fresh-fallen snow for four hours of the ascent was very great.

September (?) 1855. E. H. GREG, Cheshire, England.—I started from the Riffel Inn at 4 A.M. Stars brilliant and prospects of a fine day good. Crossed the Gorner glacier at 6 $\frac{1}{2}$. Reached the fresh-fallen snow at 9, and being $\frac{1}{2}$ knee deep the fatigue of walking was very great. I saw Mont Blanc at about 9 o'clock. From 11 to 1 the way lies over the ridges of snow and rocks as sharp as a knife-blade, with tremendous precipices of rock on one side for thousands of feet below, and on the other of snow. A perfect head is necessary, as a slip would be fatal, and each one must manage for himself, as the rope is untied when the rocks are reached. The last 20 minutes is up a ridge of snow at an angle of about 65° to 70°, quite the worst thing of the sort I ever did. The exertion is great, as the breathing is affected. It is necessary to cut steps here where the snow is too hard. I reached the summit at 1 o'clock. The view of the whole immense mountain . . . [*The rest has been cut off.*]

September 27, 1855. W. B. RICHARDSON.—I started this morning for Monte Rosa. There was every appearance of fine weather, but gradually the sky became overcast and our progress was retarded by deep snow. At 1.30 we had not quite reached the first summit, and as it was impossible to see anything I determined at once to descend and only arrived here [Zermatt] at nightfall. Peter Taugwalder was my guide and he seemed to be well acquainted with the route. The charge for a guide is 40 francs and provisions including wine cost 20 francs, say £2 10s. 10d. The guides alone for Mont Blanc if taken at Chamonix cost £16 and provisions about £6, so that this is decidedly the cheaper excursion. I should not recommend any one to attempt the ascent at so late a period in the year as this from the probability of encountering fresh fallen snow and the shortness of the days.

July 7, 1856. E. C. [Probably Mr. Edward Cayley who arrived at the 'Riffel' on June 28.]—I started at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in the morning and reached the highest point of Monte Rosa at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$, and back again at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.M. Guides, Matthäus and Johann zum Taugwald, both excellent. The snow was in a most favourable condition, both in going and returning, and no steps had to be cut, which accounts for the shortness of the time the excursion required. The view on the Swiss side was quite clear, but the whole Italian side was covered with a sea of clouds below our feet.

July 9, 1856. SIGMUND FORGES, Vienna.—Gestern bestieg ich [unter]Führung von Matthäus zum Taugwald, Peter Taugwalder, und Ignatz Biener die höchste Spitze des Monte Rosa die ich, da erst um halb 3 Uhr aufbrach, nur 1 Uhr Nachmittags erreichte. Nach

bedeutenden Schwierigkeiten gelangten wir um $\frac{1}{2}$ 9 Uhr Abends auf den Riffel zurück. Den 10 July 1856.

July 21-24. STEPHEN WINKWORTH.—Made an unsuccessful attempt to ascend Monte Rosa.

July 22, 1856.—JUSTUS WETSKY.

July 21-24, 1856. RICHARD CAYLEY, St. John's Coll. Camb., and O. EDMUNDS, Stamford.—Made an unsuccessful attempt to ascend Monte Rosa.

July 29, 1856. EAGLESFIELD BRADSHAW SMITH, Scotland, and JAMES PARKER, Oxford.—For a second time, the first attempt having been unsuccessful owing to a high wind and clouds. We ascended, yesterday, Monte Rosa, leaving about $\frac{1}{2}$ past three in the morning, and although we spent considerable time upon the rocks above the arête, and staid $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour on the summit, we found ourselves in the hotel at 7 P.M., and not at all fatigued. Our guides were Joseph Brantschen and Pierre Taugwalder, and François George Chanton. The latter a younger man, but most attentive and serviceable.

August 4, 1856. CH. FAISEAU, Paris, and ANDREW JOHNSTON, England.—Ascended Monte Rosa to-day. Started at 3.30. Stars bright. Reached summit 11.30. Fine day, but heavy clouds hid the view of Italy almost entirely. Returned to Riffel 4.45 without any fatigue or affection of the breath on the summit. But the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or so is so difficult that we could not recommend anybody to try the ascent for the view, unless settled cloudless weather hold out a better promise than we had. Guides Joseph Brantschen and the three Taugwalds . . . [*One line cut off*].

[On the same page Mr. Andrew Johnston records a second ascent of Monte Rosa on August 25, 1882, twenty-six years after the above entry was written.]

August 7, 1856. WILLIAM BLACKER.—I ascended Monte Rosa, leaving the hotel (the Riffel) at $3\frac{1}{2}$ A.M., and reached the summit at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 12. Returned to the Riffel at $4\frac{1}{2}$ P.M. The weather was very fine, and the ascent easy. The guides were Johann [zum] Taugwald¹⁴ and his brother François, with Peter Bohren of Grindelwald.

August 16, 1856. E. B. PREST.—Ascended the highest point of Monte Rosa on Saturday, 16th August. Guides, Etienne zum Taugwald and another Taugwald. Left Riffel at $\frac{1}{4}$ of 5 and returned at $\frac{1}{2}$ of 6 P.M. Glorious view, and the ascent presents no difficulties till you arrive near the top. I was also accompanied by Jacques-Marie Couttet of Chamonix, a Chamonix guide, and the first, I believe, who has ever made the ascent.¹⁵

September 5, 1856. D. P. CROOK and T. H. MARSHALL.—Ascended Monte Rosa to-day. Started from this inn [the Riffel] at

¹⁴ Cousins of the better-known Matthäus and Johann.

¹⁵ See, however, Mr. Chapman's entry, August 25, 1855.

4 A.M. Reached the highest point at 11.45. The day was fine and still, but the Italian side was covered with clouds; the view of the peaks both of Mont Blanc and the Oberland was magnificent. Our guides were Johann zum Taugwald and Stephan zum Taugwald, and Jean Kronig, an active young fellow—this was his first ascent. The other two are first-rate guides.

September 11, 1856. GEORGE PERRIN.—Ascended Monte Rosa yesterday, starting at 4.40 and not reaching the summit till 1.45 P.M., nor the Riffel till 8 P.M. Found the latter part of the ascent both difficult and dangerous, both the ice arête and the rocks being rendered treacherous by much fresh snow, but we had the advantage of calm weather and no excessive heat or cold. A German gentleman who accompanied me failed in getting farther than the top of the great ice-slope, when within little more than an hour of the summit, he being nearly exhausted and the rock difficulties only beginning. Two local guides, Matthäus zum Taugwald and Antoine Ritz,¹⁶ proved themselves worthy of their calling, and of my Chamonix guide, Jean M. Ambroise Simond, it would be impossible to speak too highly.

July 13-16, 1857. Dr. GEORG BUNSEN aus Burg Rheindorf bei Bonn in Rheinpreussen bestieg am 14ten mit seinem Schwager EDWARD BIRKBECK den Monte Rosa beim hellsten und wärmsten Wetter. Unsere Führer waren BRANTSCHEN, PETER TAUGWALDER, STEPHAN und IGNATZ ZUM TAUGWALD. Die beiden Ersten begleiteten uns heute (16ten) über das Matterjoch nach Chatillon.

July 31, 1857.—J. BECK,¹⁷ Strasbourg, with PETER TAUGWALDER and ANTOINE RITZ.

August 13, 1857. RICHARD FORMAN and Miss E. C. FORMAN.—We went up the Monte Rosa, starting from the hotel at 2 in the morning, and got to the summit at 1½ P.M., after a very laborious ascent, more so than usual from the new snow which was very deep; after getting . . . arête of steep snow you take to the actual ridge. . . . My daughter accomplished the ascent with comparative ease. We are of opinion that the ascent of Monte Rosa is far more difficult than Mont Blanc.

August 20, 1857.—R. W. E. FORSTER, with MATTHÄUS ZUM TAUGWALD and PETER BOHREN.

August 21, 1857.—EUSTACE ANDERSON alone with PETER BOHREN of Grindelwald.

August 27, 1857.—W. F. BARING and J. L. TOMLIN, with IGNATZ ANDERMATTEN, PETER TAUGWALDER, and FRANÇOIS COUTTET of Chamonix.

¹⁶ Of Blitzingen, Upper Rhone Valley, but at that time attached to the Riffelhaus as guide.

¹⁷ Jules Beck of Strasbourg (1823-1883), an original member of the S.A.C. who became well known in after years as a photographer of the high Alps.

August 28, 1857.—CHARLES SCHNEEGANS, Strasbourg, with PETER TAUGWALDER.

August 28, 1857.—CHARLES and ROBERT INGLIS, with three guides.

September 2, 1857. T. W. HINCHLIFF.—Saas to Zermatt by the Adler. Ascended Monte Rosa on August 28.

September 17, 1857.—JOHN FIELD, GEORGE K. NATHAN, EDWARD G. MANAHAN (?), J. H. LAW, EDGAR RICHARD, J. K. J. HITCHENS, ANDREW K. HITCHENS, . . . HITCHENS, with JOSEPH BRANTSCHEN, PETER TAUGWALDER, MATTHÄUS ZUM TAUGWALD, PETER BINER, JOHAN KRONIG, JOSEPH MARIE KRONIG, DAVID SIMOND of Chamonix, J. BINER, and P. J. TAUGWALDER.

June 6, 1858. WM. MATHEWS.¹⁸—Ascended to within a thousand feet of the summit of Monte Rosa, with Peter Taugwalder and . . .

July 16, 1858.—H. J. and H. G. NORMAN, with JOHANN ZUM TAUGWALD, PETER PERREN, and PETER TAUGWALDER.

August 17, 1858.—FRANCIS SCAWEN BLUNT, WILFRID BLUNT, G. L. FOX, and J. L. FOX, with PETER BOHREN of Grindelwald, FRANZ ANDERMATTEN of Saas, and CHRISTIAN LAUENER.

August 20, 1858.—Rev. EDWARD OWEN and Rev. HUGH D. OWEN with JOSEPH MOSER and JOSEPH KRONIG.

August 28, 1858. J. F. HARDY, THOS. W. HINCHLIFF, L. STEPHEN, and F. P. KOE.—Went up Monte Rosa.

August 28, 1858. G. FRANZONI and E. H. GRUNDY.—Went up Mt. Rosa within 500 feet of the top. We did not get on, as the guide had not been up before and we could not trust him.

September 1, 1858. ROBERT VON DER HEYDT, Stud. jur. aus Berlin.—Am 30 August von Chamouni aus hier angekommen, bestieg ich gestern am 31ten zusammen mit einem jungen Amerikaner die Spitze des Monte Rosa. Wir verliessen das Riffelhotel um 3 Uhr Morgens, erreichten um 4 Uhr 35 M. den Gornergletscher, hatten auf demselben um 5 Uhr 20 den prachtvollsten Sonnenaufgang und befanden uns um 5 Uhr 35 am Fusse des Monte Rosa. Seine höchste Spitze erreichten wir um 11½ Uhr hielten uns oben eine halbe Stunde auf, waren aber leider von der Witterung nicht allzusehr begünstigt. Zwar strahlten die höheren Kämme und Spitzen alle im schönsten Sonnenglanze und war die Aussicht auf dieselben eine wahrhaft überwältigende, aber alle Thäler sowie auch die grosse lombardische Ebene waren mit dichten Nebeln verschleiert. Bereits um 5½ Uhr erreichten wir wieder das Riffelhotel hatten also zum Aufsteigen 8½ zum Heruntersteigen 5½ Stunden gebraucht. Meine Führer waren Moritz Andermatt von Vispach und Anton Ritz von Riffelberg.

September 1, 1858. L. W. WINTERBOTHAM, LEONARD WILBERFORCE, and ALFRED STERN, Dr. jur. aus Wien.—Ebenfalls an der

¹⁸ This is probably not William Mathews subsequently President A.C., who ascended Monte Rosa in 1856, but W. E. Matthews, Oxford, see *A.J.* xxxi. 222, who ascended Monte Rosa before 1860, in which year he was elected to the A.C.

obigen Partie theilnehmend war ich nicht so glücklich die höchste Spitze des Monte Rosa zu erreichen, sondern musste erschöpft, was ich theilweise der Ermüdung, theilweise der Einwirkung der Luft zuschreibe, auf dem Grat d.h. in einer Höhe von 13,800 zurückbleiben. Meine Gefährten hatten nach eigener Aussage noch eine Stunde Steigens. Meinen Führer Joseph Brantschen aus Zermatt kann ich nur bestens empfehlen.

September 3, 1858. FRANK T. PROTHERO, GEO. B. GETHON, and SAM H. CLOSE.—On the 3rd Septr. ascended Monte Rosa.

September 3, 1858. GEORGE MILLER, ROBERT LIVEING, S. H. BURBURY, and Rev. H. SNOW.—Ascended Monte Rosa with three guides. Left this hotel [Riffel] at 4.50 A.M., reached the Höchste Spitze at 1 P.M., and returned to this hotel at 6.30 P.M.

September 15–22, 1858. M. CULLOCH.—I cannot express how grateful I am to Mr. Seiler and the servant of this house for their great kindness during a stay of a week detained here from the effects of the cold on Monte Rosa. I take this opportunity of warning travellers against Johann and Joseph Brantschen who accompanied me as guides in an attempt to ascend Monte Rosa. We only got as far as the bottom of the final pyramid, where all farther progress was frustrated through the neglect and unwillingness of both guides and, I must add, the cowardice of Joseph.

September 17–22, 1858. W. J. MARSHALL.—From Sion over the Col d'Evolena to this house [Riffel] 14 hours. On the 20th to the summit of Monte Rosa and back in 13 hours, on the 22nd over the Weisssthor to the Mattmark See.

September 20, 1858.—R. C. HEATH and ALFRED WILLS.¹⁹

July 29, 1859. C. MUIR MACKENZIE.—Ascended Monte Rosa. Started at 3.20 and arrived at the Höchste Spitze at 10 A.M., and after resting for $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. returned to the Riffelberg by 2.15. My guide was Ulrich Lauener of Lauterbrunnen, whom I cannot too greatly recommend.

July 30, 1859. JOSEPH H. FOX.—I started this morning for Monte Rosa at 4 o'clock, reached the Höchste Spitze at 10.30, returned to the Riffel at 2.50. Guides, Victor and Joseph Tairraz of Chamonix.

August 1859. J. DIXON.—Left at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4, and arrived at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 1 on the summit of the Monte Rosa. Remained there about half an hour, and reached the hotel [Riffel] again at 8. Was accompanied by Theodore Fuchs of Vispach and Pierre Perren of Zermatt, both of whom I recommend for any similar expeditions.

August 13, 1859. FREDERICK WATHEN and WILLIAM HOOPER Wadham Coll., Oxford.—Ascended to the summit of Monte Rosa

¹⁹ There is a delightful account of this ascent in Sir Alfred Wills *The Eagle's Nest in the Valley of Sixt: a Summer Home among the Alps*, London, 1860 (pp. 288–327, 'Ascent of Monte Rosa'). The guides of the party were August Balmat and François Cachat, of Chamonix.

with three guides. Six or seven Cambridge men had determined to make the ascent the same day, but hung back from fear of bad weather. We rose in time to start at the normal hour, but the fear which the guides entertained brought the time to half-past five before we started. Many have in this volume stated that there is no difficulty before the last 500 feet of rock, but that this last was scarcely practicable; our experience is the contrary. The last 500 feet are the most dangerous, but by no means the most fatiguing, part of the ascent. The whole way was rendered exceedingly fatiguing for us by the deep snow, in which we repeatedly sank and which concealed the crevasses. We accordingly did not reach the summit till 4 p.m., and it was nearly ten when we reached the Riffel. The names of our guides were Pierre Tauchwalder and his son, and Jean Cronick [*sic*]; these men we heartily recommend to all travellers for their unremitting attentions to the wants and watchful care for the safety of travellers. We especially recommend to favourable notice the young lad of 15,²⁰ who bids fair to rise to rapid success as a guide, if we may judge from the extraordinary development of the guide's qualities in him at so tender an age.

August 28, 1859. Rev. W. G. WATSON, F. K. COOK, C. J. CLAY, and J. W. CHURCH.—Ascended Monte Rosa with Franz Anthamatten of Saas, Pierre Taugwalder and Stephan zum Taugwald of Zermatt.

July 7, 1860. NEVILLE GOODMAN and ROBERT DIXON WALKER.—Made the excursion to the highest point of Monte Rosa in 14 hours from this hotel [Riffel], it being the first ascent this year. Started at 2.30, arrived at highest point 10.45 . . . [*The rest has been cut off.*]

July 9, 1860. F. THIOLY and J. P. SOULLIER.—Partis de l'Hôtel du Riffel à 2h. $\frac{1}{2}$ heures du matin le 9 juillet, 1860, nous avons tenté l'ascension du Mont Rose sous la conduite de quatre guides de Zermatt. Cette excursion est extrêmement fatigante à cause de la grande difficulté que l'on éprouve à marcher sur les pentes couvertes de neige glacée, aussi conseillons-nous aux personnes désireuses d'escalader le Mont Rose de se munir de crampons ou de faire garnir leurs souliers de gros clous. Nous avons pu, en montant, admirer les montagnes de Chamonix, et l'immense chaîne des Alpes Bernoises, mais à notre arrivée sur la cime du Mont Rose (Höchste Spitze) à 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ heures, nous fûmes surpris par une bourrasque de neige fine qu'un vent glacial nous jetait à la figure; des nuages épais s'étendaient autour de nous, et nous dûmes redescendre précipitamment sans avoir vu le panorama du côté de Macugnaga. Notre retour fut très pénible, car la neige ayant recouvert toutes les fissures et crevasses, nous dûmes rester attachés tous à la même

²⁰ This was probably the first serious expedition made by 'young' Peter Taugwalder, who—with his father and Mr. Whymper—was one of the survivors of the Matterhorn accident six years later. He was born in 1843 and is still alive, but his career as a guide ended some seventeen or eighteen years ago.

corde jusqu'auprès du glacier du Gorner, où le danger finissait, tandis que le principal guide Pierre Taugwalder sondait la neige à chaque pas que nous faisons, ou taillait des marches dans la glace avec la hâche. Nous étions de retour à l'Hôtel du Riffel à 6 heures du soir.²¹

July 15, 1860.—C. H. PILKINGTON, New Coll., Oxford, W. L. EDWARD, R. W. HEAD, J. A. HUDSON, R. M. STEPHENSON, H. M. BULLER, and Colonel ROBERTSON.²²

July 16, 1860.—CHARLES D. ROBERTSON, with MATTHÄUS and STEPHAN ZUM TAUGWALD.

July 26, 1860.—Sir T. FOWELL BUXTON, EDWARD N. BUXTON, and GURNEY LEATHAM, with MATTHÄUS and STEPHAN ZUM TAUGWALD, and MICHEL PAYOT of Chamonix.

August 8, 1860.—H. C. NORRIS, C. M. STYLE, and R. MACDONALD, with ANTOINE RITZ and FRANZ and JOSEPH LOCHMATTER.

August 13, 1860.²³—J. E. MILLARD, DAVID PITCAIRN, Magdalen Coll., Oxford, and J. K. STONE of Harvard College, U.S.A.

August 15, 1860.—W. E. FORSTER, with CHRISTIAN ALMER and ANTOINE RITZ.

August 24, 1860.—Mr. SALMOND, H. SALMOND, R.N., W. SALMOND, R.E., Cumberland.—Went up Monte Rosa on the 24th. Left the Riffel Hotel at 5.45 A.M., back again at 5.45 P.M. Splendid view. Mathé zum Taugwald is a good guide, and Louis zum Taugwald a very good porter.

August 27, 1860.—T. G. BONNEY and J. C. HAWKSHAW, with CROZ of Chamonix.

September 4, 1860.—WYNDHAM GIBBES and HENRY FREDERICK AMEDROZ, with PETER PERREN, ANTOINE RITZ, and MORITZ PERREN.

September 9, 1860.—ARTHUR VON OETTINGEN and SAMUEL BRANDRAM, with STEPHAN ZUM TAUGWALD, PETER TAUGWALDER fils, and JEAN CARRIER.

THE EARLY ATTEMPTS ON MONTE ROSA FROM THE
ZERMATT SIDE.

THE Club is again indebted to the indefatigable industry of Mr. Montagnier in all matters of Alpine history. He has now rendered available, by the courtesy of Dr. Alexander Seiler, records of the middle of last century, which have an important bearing on the subject of this paper, and are in fact responsible for it.

²¹ M. Thioly published a narrative of this expedition entitled *Zermatt et l'Ascension du Mont-Rose par F. T.* 8vo., pp. 34. 4 illustrations. Geneva, 1860.

²² Possibly the same person as the next entry.

²³ Date doubtful. Cf. *P.P.G.* II. 379.