

and came in an hour and a half, by forest tracks, to the Ros-toka Inn. It was as yet unoccupied, so we made for the nearest farm, which we reached in another hour and a half of brisk walking. Thence a waggon, springless, with basket sides and canvas roof, took us down to Zakopane. Only the furious jolting of the waggon kept the warmth of life in us. The atmosphere of that farmhouse kitchen was terrible. Not a window was open, the stove was red-hot, and two girls worked at steaming wash-tubs. Everyone there had an ominous cough. Tubercle is always the scourge of Galicia.

At Zakopane I parted with regret from Kirner, a trust-worthy and companionable man, who knew well his own mountains. Next day, a seven hours' rail journey took me to Cracow and the plains. The city, of carmine-tinted brick, is one of those towns with aspect and atmosphere entirely its own—like Bruges or Norwich or Pisa.

## ORIGINAL RECORDS OF EARLY EXPEDITIONS IN THE ZERMATT DISTRICT.

COMPILED FROM THE TRAVELLERS' BOOKS OF THE MONTE ROSA HOTEL AND OF THE INN ON THE RIFFELBERG.

BY HENRY F. MONTAGNIER.

### *The Riffelhorn.*

ACCORDING to Forbes ('Travels through the Alps of Savoy,' Mr. Coolidge's edition, p. 314) the summit of the Riffelhorn 'long passed for inaccessible, as no guide at Zermatt had attained it.' 'In 1841,' he adds, 'I attempted it by the western side, and arrived within a few fathoms of the top, when I was stopped by a cleft and a precipice, which was not to be ascended without incurring a needless risk. In 1842, however, some English students at Hofwyl, clambering about the rocks, found a circuitous path on the eastern side, by which the top may be gained without much difficulty. I accordingly mounted it with Damatter, who had learned the way, and proceeded to take some bearings from the summit, which is a narrow rugged space.'

The young Englishmen mentioned by Forbes fortunately

left a brief account of their ascent in the 'Travellers' Book which reads as follows :

August 8, 1842.—' Valentine and William Smith, Lushington, and John Barwell, students at Hofwyl, ascended the highest point of the Riffelhorn (which point has only been climbed by a goatherd). The way is *difficult* and even dangerous, but the view is unequalled as it affords the most perfect prospect of all the glaciers in the neighbourhood.'

Forbes's ascent appears to have been made a few days later. The third ascent is recorded in the following entry by J. Muir, D.C.L. of Edinburgh, dated August 9, 1875 :

' With Herr Seiler's kind permission I wish, even after this long interval, to add my name to the list of visitors at Zermatt and its neighbourhood in 1842. I arrived shortly after the late Prof. Forbes had left and was taken by my guide to the top of the Riffelhorn, shortly before ascended by some young gentlemen. See last page.'

This traveller was very probably Dr. John Muir (1810–1882), LL.D. Edinburgh 1861, magistrate under the East India Company and author of a number of important works on Indian history, Sanscrit etc. (See also 'A.J.' xxvi. 470–2 and xxvii. 104–5.)

#### *The Cima di Jazzi.*

August 18, 1851. G. M. SYKES.—' Stayed here a week and begs to add his testimony to the many recorded in this book. Found Matthias Zum Taugwald an excellent guide both to the easy excursions to Schwarzsee, Riffelberg, Rothe Kumm, Gorner Grat and to the more difficult one of Col St. Théodule and Weissen Thor. Those making an excursion to the Weissen Thor and intending to return the same day to Zermatt should not omit to ascend the height on the right side of the pass (about one hour's walk higher than the pass itself), the view from which is magnificent.'

This is the earliest recorded ascent of the Cima di Jazzi. Mr. Sykes contributed several notes over his initials ('G. M.S.') to the 1852 Murray (pp. 278–279).

#### *The Dom.*

August 19, 1859. T. G. BONNEY, WILLIAM MATHEWS, and G. S. MATHEWS.—' Started for the Dom at 2 A.M. from the Curé's house at Ratda. It was bright moonlight when we left but in half an hour the sky clouded over. We proceeded as far as the last rocks at the head of the Graben Glacier which we reached at 7

a.m. having waited about an hour and a half on the way on account of bad weather. Here the clouds were so thick that further progress was impossible, and after another half hour the weather showing no signs of improvement, we were reluctantly obliged to return. Our local guide was Hieronymus Brantschen of Randa, who appeared thoroughly acquainted with the route and whom we can confidently recommend for this expedition.'

*September 7, 1859.* R. LIVEING and LESLIE STEPHEN.—'Ascended the Dom on September 7th, guides Johann zum Taugwald (who made the first ascent last year) and Melchior Anderegg.'

*August 1862.* E. S. KENNEDY and THOS. HOWELLS.—'Ascended the Dom Thursday, August 8.'

Howells was elected to the A.C. in December 1862 on the qualification Glärnisch (see 'A.J.' i. 120), Monte Rosa, Weisssthor. Curiously enough, the Dom is not mentioned. He made an attempt on the Weisshorn with Stephen ('A.J.' i. 140).

*August 1862.* J. F. HARDY, Sidney Coll., Cambridge.—'Ascended the Dom August 8th.'

*July 10, 1863.* A. W. MOORE.—'Ascended the Dome to-day in bad weather, guided by Melchior Anderegg and Christian Almer. Left Randa at 2.20 a.m., reached the summit at 12.15 p.m., Randa again at 5 p.m. and this place [Zermatt] at 7.15 p.m.'

Moore's MS. Journal states: 'Started 2.30 a.m., out of wood 4.30., top of moraine of Graben (Festi) Glacier 7, resumed 7.30, crest of ridge 9, main arête 11.45, top 12.15, Col over Graben Glacier 1.45, Randa 5.'

*August 16, 1864.* J. RIDDELL, J. R. KING, and R. MACDONALD.—'Ascended the Dom with Melchior Anderegg and Johann zum Taugwald.'

Rev. James Riddell (1823-1866) was a fellow and tutor of Balliol ('A.J.' xxv. 438 and xxxi. 227).

Rev. J. R. King (1835-1907), Fellow of Merton, member of the A.C. 1862-1907 (see 'A.J.' xxxi. 226-227). They were both active mountaineers.

### *The Dent Blanche.*

*July 19, 1862.* W. WIGRAM and THOMAS S. KENNEDY.—'Ascended the Dent Blanche July 18. Guide Jean Baptiste Croz, porter Jean [Joseph] Marie Kronig. This fellow is not up to much.'

Joseph Marie Kronig, who was born on April 14, 1838, is still alive. His Führerbuch contains the following record of this ascent:—'Joseph Marie Kronig accompanied Mr. Wigram and myself to the summit of the Dent Blanche. He did his very best for us, although his extreme nervousness renders him occasionally a very trying companion.' The old man laughed heartily when I translated this entry to him and said that it was quite true that he was nervous on the ascent

of the Dent Blanche. He had had, he explained, very little previous experience on difficult rocks and ice, and when engaged by the two Englishmen he was not aware of the nature of the ascent they were about to undertake. He adds that the difficulty in making himself understood with the French guide tended greatly to increase his anxiety.

His Führerbuch also contains records of ascents of Monte Rosa with Messrs. Edward Owen, Jesus College, Oxford, and N. Davies Owen on July 20, 1858; F. Craufurd Grove and J. Mackintosh Wedgewood on August 20, 1861; and ——— Wilbraham and Edward B. Bright (with Johann Zum Taugwald) on August 27, 1861.

August 5, 1864. J. J. HORNBY and T. H. PHILPOTT.—‘On the 4th . . . with Mr. Macpherson and Christian Almer, Christian Lauener and Peter Perren made an unsuccessful attempt on the Dent Blanche from the Stockji.’

June 17, 1865. EDWARD WHYMPER, London.—‘June 17th. Ascent of the Dent Blanche (second ascent)<sup>1</sup> . . . at 5.20 from Abricolla intending to cross the Col d’Erin; the Dent Blanche being however clear we decided to go up it instead, and made for the col between the great peak and the minor one marked 3912 metres on the Federal map. From the col we intended to follow the arête, but before arriving there, a new line of ascent presented itself up a series of couloirs and rocky teeth. It seemed preferable to the arête which was being swept by a furious wind. At 8.15 we crossed the bergschrund separating the great peak from the glacier, up which we were moving, and at 4.12 we gained the summit. Immediately we gained it we turned, and without a minute’s halt, went down. At 8.15 we crossed the schrund again, got lost in a fog, and did not reach Abricolla until 11.45 P.M. after a succession of most exciting incidents. Actual walking time 17 hours. Guides for the above expedition Michel Croz, Christian Almer and Franz Biner.’

This expedition is described in Mr. Whympers’s ‘Scrambles,’ 1871, pp. 274–280.

July 2, 1867. DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD, C. C. TUCKER, and T. H. CARSON.—‘We made an unsuccessful attempt to ascend the Dent Blanche from Bricolla on the 1st [of July]. We strongly recommend anyone attempting the mountain to bear continually to the left in ascending the face, and have nothing to do with the arête. There is probably more ice than usual this year on the rocks, but the climb must always be a severe one owing to the great height of the actual peak. We were out 17 hours, of which 16 hours were actual climbing on the peak.’

This expedition is just referred to in passing (‘A.J.’ vi. 84).

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<sup>1</sup> Whympers’s was the third ascent of Mr. Coolidge’s *The Early Ascents of the Dent Blanche*, A.J. xv. 64 seq.

*The Lyskamm.*

*July 8, 1861.* A. W. MOORE.—‘Made an unsuccessful assault on the Lyskamm this morning, but reached a point higher than has been attained on any previous attempt about 900 feet below the summit; the very violent wind then compelled me to desist. Guides Zacharie Cachat of Chamonix and Johann Zum Taugwald of Zermatt’ (‘A.J.’ i. 88–89).

*August 19, 1861.* [First ascent.] ‘Ascent of the Lyskamm on Aug. 19th. At 1.40 A.M. Prof. A. C. Ramsay, Dr. Sibson, Messrs. T. Rennison, Ch. Pilkington, W. E. Hall, J. A. K. Hudson, R. M. Stevenson and J. F. Hardy left the Riffelberg with Peter Perren, Franz Lochmatter, Karl Herr [probably Hess], Jean Pierre Cachat, Stephan [zum] Taugwald and Joseph Marie Perren, for the ascent of the Lyskamm. The whole party reached the summit at 11.40 A.M. The snow arête presented considerable difficulties and occupied 2 hours 40 minutes. All the guides were very good, but Peter Perren, who took the lead throughout, earned the warmest admiration of the whole party.’ [Over the signature of J. F. Hardy.]

*August 2, 1862.*—H. B. GEORGE, COUTTS TROTTER, W. S. THOMASON and W. TROTTER.—‘Ascended the Lyskamm, 4½ hours up the arête, 1 hour 20 minutes down it. Guides Christian Almer and Peter Bohren of Grindelwald and Peter Taugwalder of Zermatt.’

*July 13, 1863.* W. AWDRY, F. MORSHEAD, A. W. MOORE.—‘Ascended the Lyskamm this day. Left Riffel 2.50 A.M., reached summit 12.30 P.M. and this hotel at 5.10 P.M.’

This expedition is fully described in Moore’s MS. Journals.

*August 2, 1864.* H. A. STRONG, CECIL BOURKE, and JOHN MACPHERSON, with PETER PERREN and JOHANN KRONIG.

Mr. Strong, who survives, and Mr. Macpherson were both A.C. men.

*August 16, 1864.* E. N. BUXTON and LESLIE STEPHEN.—‘Ascended the Lyskamm by the western arête, the first time this route has been successfully taken. Left the Riffel at 3 A.M., reached the Zwillinge Col at 7.45, the summit of the Lyskamm at 11.45, the Riffel at 5.50 P.M., and this house [Monte Rosa Hotel in Zermatt] at 7.15. This route seems to be shorter than that previously adopted, though more time is spent on an exposed arête. The best way of ascending would, however, in my opinion, be from Gressonay, and by the arête which descends towards the S.W. from the summit. Guides Jacob Anderegg and Franz Biner’ (‘A.J.’ i. 377).

*July 13, 1866.* J. H. KITSON.—‘Ascended the Lyskamm by the eastern arête. Guide Christian Almer.’

Mr. Kitson descended the W. arête while the traverse in the reverse direction was simultaneously made by Messrs. Morshead and Walker with the Andereggs (‘A.J.’ ii. 414).

*August 20–21, 1866.* C. E. MATHEWS with DANIEL BALLEYS.—‘From Gressonay to the top of the Col de Lys intending to try the

Lyskamm from the arête, but the wind was too strong even to allow of my getting down to the Riffel and the cold was intense. Recrossed the Lys Pass and (21st) by the Col de Betta Furka, Col des Cimes Blanches and the St. Théodule to Zermatt. Left A. A. Reilly surveying the Valpelline district.'

July 15-22, 1867. F. MORSHEAD and C. E. MATHEWS.—'The Weissthor, the Cima di Jazzi, the Jägerhorn (first ascent), the Jägerjoch (first passage), the Schwarzthor, the Felixjoch, the Lyskamm from Gressonay (first ascent).'

July 15.—'Left the Riffel at 2.25 A.M., ascended the Cima di Jazzi and crossed the Weissthor to Macugnaga easily in nine hours.'

July 16.—'Ascended the Range of the Pizzo Bianco (our object being if possible to ascend Monte Rosa from the Italian side), carefully examined the face of the mountain through a telescope, but could find no practicable route to the summit in consequence of the great mass of overhanging séracs. Almer said it would be a miserable "Dummheit" to make the attempt. Lochmatter of Macugnaga called our attention to a supposed new pass between a peak called the Jägerhorn (which looks from the Italian side like one of the peaks of Monte Rosa) and the Nord End of that mountain.'

July 17.—'Left Macugnaga at 1.55 A.M. and walking to the top of the Belvédère, reached the waterfall at the foot of the old Weissthor in 2½ hours. We there took to the rocks which lead direct to the summit of the Nord End, and gained the top of the Jägerhorn at 12.20, after some rather severe rock climbing. Between the Jägerhorn and the final rocks of the Nord End and about 150 feet below the former is a snow ridge which forms the extreme northern corner of the Gorner Glacier. Descending on to this ridge we reached the Riffel easily at 4.30 P.M. We cannot too strongly recommend this new and magnificent col. It is about 13,500 feet in height; the views it commands of the Italian side and of the Monte Rosa are superb. It will be found more convenient to take it from Macugnaga rather than from the Riffel, and by sleeping at the chalets at the foot of the old Weissthor 2½ hours of the ascent may be saved.'

July 18.—'Crossed the Schwarzthor to St. Giacomo d'AYas and in the evening by the Betta Furka to the chalets overlooking the Lys Glacier, our object being to ascend the Lyskamm from the side of Gressonay.'

July 19.—'Left the chalets at 2.45 and ascended the rocks which bound the Lys Glacier on the west, crossed the basin of the Felix Glacier, and at 6.10 gained the open snow fields at the head of the Lys Glacier without the slightest difficulty. At 8.30 we arrived at the base of the peak, but unfortunately a heavy cloud settled on the mountain and we had a little snow. Almer dissuaded us from making the attempt, so we cut steps up the steep slopes on the left, crossed the western arête of the Lyskamm, descended to the Felixjoch and reached Zermatt at 4.30.'

July 22.—‘ We were so certain that the Lyskamm could be ascended from the Gressonay side (a view also strongly urged by Mr. Stephen) that we left the Riffl at 12.30 this morning (brilliant moonlight), gained the summit of the Felikjoch at 5.10, cut 307 steps down to the basin of the Lys Glacier, and regained our track of the 19th. We then struck across the glacier to the base of the final peak, and mounted by the rocks on the right, which form the true Gressonay arête. We reached the summit at 10.5, under a nearly cloudless sky. Leaving at 11, we cut steps down to the Lysjoch in 2 hours and 40 minutes, reaching the Riffl at 6 and Zermatt at 7.15 P.M.—a laborious but magnificent excursion of nineteen hours.

‘ The Lyskamm from the Riffl must always be a difficult excursion owing to the great length of both the arêtes by which the summit is gained. We believe however that any competent mountaineer could gain the summit from the chalet of the Cours de Lys in eight hours without difficulty or danger, and we also believe that the moraine on the west bank of the Lys Glacier will prove the easiest way to the summit ’ (‘ A.J.’ iv. 54-56).

The mention of the examination of the Italian side of Monte Rosa is very interesting. It is referred to in ‘ A.J.’ xxx. 177 text and note 2.

#### *The First Ascent of Pollux.*

August 2, 1864.—‘ Jules Jacot, étudiant, La Chaux-de-Fonds, membre du C.A.S., a fait avec les guides Peter Taugwalder et Joseph-Marie Perrin, le 30 juillet l’ascension du Mont-Rose. Malheureusement une indisposition m’a empêché d’arriver au sommet. Mais le 1 août, avec les mêmes guides je suis arrivé le premier au sommet de Pollux (pic occidental des Jumeaux). Ascension pénible et très dangereuse, temps magnifique, vue splendide. A ceux qui voudraient entreprendre l’ascension de Castor, qui est encore vierge, je recommande chaleureusement comme condition certaine de succès mes guides sur Pollux (Peter Taugwalder et Joseph-Marie Perrin de Zermatt) non seulement pour leur habilité mais aussi pour l’agrément de leur compagnie, et pour les prévenances et les petits soins dont ils ont été remplis envers moi et dont je garderai longtemps le souvenir.’

As Jacot never published a narrative of this ascent the above note, containing the date and the names of the guides, details hitherto unknown, is of considerable interest. The writer was of course mistaken with regard to Castor, which had already been climbed in 1861 by W. Mathews and Jacomb. (See ‘ P.P.G.’ 2nd S., i. 405.)

*The First Passage of the Felikjoch, and First Ascent of Castor.*

August 23, 1861. WILLIAM MATHEWS and F. W. JACOMB.—  
'From Gressoney to Chatillon. By a new pass between the Lyskamm and the Twins ascending the eastern and higher of the Twins (Castor) en route. Slept in the Chalet of Cour de Lys at the extremity of the Lys Glacier on the night of the 22nd. Left at 2.20 A.M., ascended the moraine on the west bank of the glacier until we had passed the Felik Joch and then climbed rocks to a plateau of snow extending from the Felik Horn to the southern face of Castor. Walked along the snow at the foot of the last named peak and then turning to the right gained the col at 9.45. Climbed the snow arête to the summit of Castor and built a stone man a few feet down the southern side, placed Alpine minimum no. 376 in a hole in the southern face of the stone man, closed by a projecting stone. Placed also a Fahrenheit minimum of Casella. View from Castor quite clear and very fine. Regained the col and descended the Jumeaux Glacier and then across Gorner Glacier to the Riffel. The whole excursion a most interesting one and the only difficulty threading the séracs between the Jumeaux and the Gorner Glaciers. Times as follows: Left Chalet at 2.20 A.M., gained snow plateau at 6, halted for breakfast, left at 7, gained col at 9.45, top of Castor 10.45, left at 11.30, back at col at 12, halted for dinner, left at 12.45, reached Gorner Glacier at 2.30, halted again, left at 3.15, reached Riffel at 5, left at 6, Zermatt at 7.30.'

*The First Ascent of the Rimpfischhorn.*

September 9, 1859.—'R. LIVEING and L. STEPHEN made the first ascent of the Rimpfischhorn. We left this house at 3 A.M. and followed the path leading towards the Adler Pass. At the small lake by the side of the moraine we turned to our left and mounted the Rimpfischwang (the wall of rock which divided the Findelen and Täsch glaciers). Following the snow fields along the top of this we reached the foot of the last rocks. The best route (as we discovered in our descent) lies up the most southerly of the rocky arêtes which descend from the summit to near the foot of the highest ridge. We kept by mistake to the snow couloir on the south of this arête till we reached a point immediately under the summit. We were then obliged to descend some way and find a passage on to the above-mentioned arête in effecting which we had some awkward scrambling. Having once got on to it however we had no further difficulty in the ascent and reached the summit at 12 o'clock. The view from the top, which is very fine, is of course much the same as that from the Adler Pass or Strahlhorn. We got back to this house (Hôtel du Mont Rose) at 5 P.M.'

This seems to be the only known account of the first ascent. According to A. W. Moore (new edition), pp. 228 and 243, it appears that the party was accompanied by Melchior Anderegg. The second guide was Johann zum Taugwald.<sup>1</sup>

*The First Ascent of the Alphubel.*

August 9, 1860. LESLIE STEPHEN and T. W. HINCHLIFF.—  
 'In company with Mr. Hinchliff I made to-day a very interesting excursion to the Alphubel. Leaving this house (Hôtel du Mont-Rose) at 3.15 A.M. we took the route which leads to the Allalin Pass and which we followed to a point a little beyond the Täsch Alp. We then turned to our left, and ascended the grass slopes till we reached the glacier which descends from the col upon the eastern shoulder of the Alphubel. Ascending this glacier, we reached the col without any difficulty at 9.30 A.M. From this col a series of very easy snow slopes leads directly thro' the high névé of the Fée glaciers to the summit of the Langen Fluh. We might easily have descended to Saas in 4 or 5 hours. This pass is the most direct route from Zermatt to Saas. There are no difficulties worth mentioning and the views from the head of the pass towards the whole range between the Weisshorn and Monte Rosa and also towards the Bernese Oberland are exceedingly grand. I therefore strongly recommend it to any traveller who wishes to vary the ordinary and more circuitous route by the Adler, Allalin or Weiss-thor passes, which have the disadvantages of leading to the Mattmark See instead of to Saas. I may mention that from the views we had to-day and from what I obtained a few days ago in passing from Saas to this place over the Allalin Horn, there is no doubt of its practicability on the other side, altho' we did not actually descend. As we wished to return here it was decided to attempt the Alphubel (never before ascended) and to come back by the same route. The summit of the Alphubel was reached a little before 12 after 2 hours laborious climbing thro' snow sometimes up to our knees and sometimes up to our waists. The view from the top towards the Mischabel range was very grand, but much of the view in other directions was obscured by mist. We returned here soon after 5 o'clock. Our guides were Melchior Anderegg and Peter Behren [Perren ?] (one of the best in Zermatt).'

L. STEPHEN.

This seems to be the only narrative of the ascent, as Stephen barely mentions it in 'Vacation Tourists,' 1860, p. 281. It was not previously known that Hinchliff took part in this ascent.

<sup>1</sup> See facsimile from Joh. zum Taugwald's Führerbuch, *A.J.* xxxi. 232.

*The Allalinhorn from the N.W.*

August 1, 1860. W. F. SHORT and L. STEPHEN.—‘ From Saas by a new pass over the Fée and Täsch glaciers and the Allalin Horn. We started from Saas at 5.30 A.M., ascended the Gletscher Alp and “Langefluh” to the top of the rocks and had from thence 5 hours of very laborious walking thro’ deep snow to the col between the Allalin Horn and the Alphubel which we reached at 2 o’clock. From this point it is possible that a descent may be effected directly to the Täsch glacier. It would certainly be a difficult one and our guide Franz Andermatten of Saas—a very good judge—declared it to be impracticable. We therefore ascended the Allalin Horn, reaching the summit at 2.30 P.M., and from it descended to the Täsch glacier. Instead of taking the route which leads over the rocks to the head of the Allalin pass, we made a direct descent by a steep snow couloir to the glacier. This brought us into great difficulties and the route over the rocks would have been far preferable. We reached the upper plateau of the Allalin glacier at 6 P.M. and this house (the Hôtel du Mont-Rose) at 9.30 P.M. Our guides were Franz Andermatten and Moritz Anthamatten of Visp. We were accompanied by Mr. Fisher and a friend, Frederick William Jacomb with Peter and Johann Kronig’ (‘Vacation Tourists,’ 1860, pp. 264–281).

*The Weisshorn.*

August 17, 1859. WILLIAM MATHEWS, St. John’s Coll., Camb., and G. S. MATHEWS, Caius Coll., Camb.—‘ On the previous day (August 16) we made an unsuccessful attempt to ascend the Weisshorn. We left Zinal in the afternoon on the 15th and slept in the chalet on the Montagne de Tracuit. We started at 3.25 A.M. and got on the Turtmann Glacier at 4.45. At 8.15 we reached a little col overhanging the Bies Glacier and very near the northern extremity of the final arête of the Weisshorn. Nothing could have been easier than our progress up to this point; but here we were brought to a complete stand. The arête is so extremely precipitous on both sides, so very long, and so broken up into pinnacles, that it was quite impossible to climb along it, and a descent on to the Bies Glacier offered no better chance of success. There can be no doubt of the inaccessibility of the Weisshorn on the Turtmann side. The point we reached cannot be less than 13,500 feet in height and in cloudless weather must command a magnificent view of the Bernese Oberland, Mischabel, Monte Rosa etc. The Hôtel du Mont Durand at Zinal contains a single room for travellers with four beds in it, which is sleeping and eating room combined. The inn is as comfortable as can be expected for such an out of the way place and Baptiste Epinay, the landlord, does his best for his visitors.’

The point reached was somewhere near the Weisshorn Pass, the scene of Mr. Godfrey Ellis's graphically depicted 'Race for Life' ('A.J.' xxi. 300). This northern arête was first ascended in 1898 by Dr. Biehly with Heinrich Burgener ('S.A.C.J.' xxxiv. 78-90). The arête has been occasionally followed since, mostly in descent. The upper part of it had been already gained from the N. by Almer with Mr. Kitson in 1871 and from the S. by Köderbacher with Mr. Farrar in 1888 (*cf.* Mr. Geoffrey Young's instructive notes in 'A.J.' xxv. 165-9 and xx. 264-5).

*July 1860.* C. E. MATHEWS.—'On the 2nd of July I tried to ascend the Weisshorn. This mountain was tried last year by my brothers from Zinal, but having arrived within 1000 feet of the summit they found it impracticable and were obliged to descend. It was tried by the Rev. Leslie Stephen in the same year from the chalet above Täsch but the ascent was not effected. I slept at the same chalet and leaving at one in the morning, after walking ten hours, succeeded in getting only to the rocks at the base of the summit. Guides Melchior Anderegg and Johann Kronig. The ascent was not effected owing to the great quantity of fresh snow. We tried to ascend by the snow over the ice and cut every step of the way for four hours. Coming down the snow was always up to our knees and often to our waists. Melchior says that this mountain cannot be ascended except late in the season and four guides are essential. It took us sixteen hours of hard walking to get from the chalet to the point mentioned and return to Zermatt.'

The signature has been cut off, but the above note was clearly written by Mr. Mathews, who published a brief account of this attempt on the Weisshorn in 'A.J.' i. 44-46.

This is the ordinary route up the mountain. By this route the first ascent was made on August 19, 1861, by Professor Tyndall with J. J. Bennen and Ulrich Wenger.

*August 8, 1863.* E. N. BUXTON and R. J. S. MACDONALD.—'Ascended the Weisshorn with Melchior Anderegg, Peter Perren and Franz Biener (the latter as porter). Left the chalets of Jatz on the Schalliberg at 12.40 and reached the summit at 11.5. Got down to Randa at 9 P.M. Much difficulty was experienced in consequence of the state and abundance of the snow in the couloirs.'

*August 11, 1863.* J. J. HORNBY and T. H. PHILPOTT.—'Ascended the Weisshorn. Left the Schallen Alp at 12.50 A.M., reached the summit at 11.5. We had a heavy snow storm during the last two hours of the ascent and the first three hours of the descent. This added considerably to the difficulty of descending the rocks. We reached Randa at 7.30 P.M. Guides Christian Almer and Christian

Lauener, porter H. Brantschen of Randa, whom we can strongly recommend.'

August 17, 1863. JOHN BIRKBECK, Jr.—'Ascended the Weiss-horn, left the chalet on the Schallen Alp at 12.10 A.M., reached the top at 9.25. Reached Randa at 5.50 P.M.'

July 19, 1867. JOHN THOM, Liverpool.—'On the 19th inst. ascended from Randa to the highest chalets on the route to the Weisshorn and attempted that ascent to-day but entirely without success, being at least two or three weeks too soon. Ourselves quite in condition, weather everything that could be desired and scarcely any wind, but the mountain itself proved almost inaccessible at present, being almost a mass of ice thinly covered with snow. Spent seven hours of hard work in rising to about 12,000 feet above sea-level, leaving still about 3000 feet more to mount to the summit. After reconnoitering and finding the slopes more and more glazed and hard as rock, we finally decided to return at 10 A.M. and took six hours to travel back over the same ground. Guides declared that possibly, if without accident ad interim, we might perhaps reach the summit between 8 and 12 (midnight). Reached here after eighteen hours' walking in all at 8.30 P.M. Same guides as above Peter Bohren of Grindelwald, Joseph Lauber of Zermatt and Joseph Moser of Täsch with Johann Schaller of Randa as porter to the chalets. First attempt I understand for three years.'

Mr. Thom finally succeeded in attaining the summit on August 19 of the following year with Christian Almer and Joseph Moser.

Mr. Thom was not a member of the A.C. but was a very enterprising climber (see Almer's *Führerbuch*).

July 23, 1868. HORACE WALKER and G. E. FOSTER.—'On the 22nd ascended the Weisshorn. Left the Schalliberg chalet at 1.15 A.M. and reached the summit at 10.30. Guides Jacob Anderegg and Hans Baumann.'

September 18, 1868. W. L. JORDAN.—'Ascended the Weisshorn on September 10 with Peter Knubel, Edouard Cupelin and Alexis Tournier of Chamonix' ('A.J.' xxxii. 98).

#### *The First Ascent of the Dent d'Hérens.*

August 17, 1863. F. C. GROVE, M. WOODMASS, R. J. S. MACDONALD and W. E. HALL.—'We ascended this mountain on the 12th inst. from the Prérayen chalet. Leaving at 2.30 A.M. we went up the most northerly of the eastern branches of the Zardezan Glacier, climbed the rocks on the southern face of the western arête to the snow to which we took at a point about 1000 feet from the summit. Thence along the arête which is chiefly composed of rocks to the north peak which we gained at 12.30. We got back to Prérayen

at 7 P.M. Guides Melchior Anderegg, Peter Perren and Jean Pierre Cachat' ('A.J.' i. 138).

*The First Ascent of the Ober-Gabelhorn.*

July 7, 1865. HORACE WALKER and A. W. MOORE.—'We yesterday made the first ascent of the Gabelhorn with Jacob Anderegg of Meiringen as guide. We ascended the southern arm of the Trift Glacier and got on to the ridge at its head connecting the Gabelhorn with the point marked on the Federal map 3910 mètres. We thence followed the arête to the summit, which we reached at 10.45, having left this place at 12.20 A.M. We arrived here again at 7.15 P.M., having been out 19 hours, of which 16½ actual walking. The expedition is a laborious one, the distance being very great, and the arête, though short, is difficult, especially to descend. In ascending the arête there is some risk from falling stones, while the last few steps on to it are (or were upon this occasion) both difficult and dangerous. The same arête might be reached from Zinal, but the amount of step cutting required would be enormous' ('A.J.' ii. 133 and xxviii. 273 seq.).

*The First Ascent of Les Diablons.*

August 27, 1863. SEDLEY TAYLOR and GEORGE D. WHATMANN.—'On Monday August 24 we made the first ascent of "Les Diablons," the mountain at the head of the Turtmann Thal. Leaving Zinal at 4.20 A.M. we reached the summit (11,826 feet high) at 11 o'clock and had a superb view of the Mont Blanc and Bernese Alps besides the chief mountains of the Western chain. Guides Franz Andermatten of Saas and Joseph Viennin of Ayer' ('A.J.' i. 201).

*The First Ascent of the Grand Cornier.*

June 19, 1865. EDWARD WHYMPER.—'June 16 ascent of the Grand Cornier (3969 mètres, 13,022 feet). Started from Zinal at 2.5 A.M. and went towards the Col de la Dent Blanche, struck up the glacier between the Dent Blanche and the Grand Cornier and when on the plateau at its head turned to the right and went up the snow slopes leading to the arête descending towards the Zinal Glacier. When on the arête followed it to the summit. The latter part was ice work of the most difficult kind, for several hundred feet we had to cut under a large cornice. Got to summit at 12.20 and left again at 1.10, reached plateau at 3.10 and thence crossed Mr. Hornby's col to Abricolla, where we arrived at 6 P.M.'