

EARLY EXTRACTS FROM THE TRAVELLERS' BOOK OF THE HOTEL  
AT THE EGGISHORN.

COMPILED BY HENRY F. MONTAGNIER.

THE FINSTERAARHORN.

CAPTAIN FARRAR has shown in a remarkable paper in volume xxvii. of the 'Alpine Journal' that there are excellent reasons for believing that the three guides Arnold Abbühl, Alois Volker, and Joseph Bortis, to whom the first ascent of this great peak is usually attributed, failed to reach the highest summit in their expedition of August 16, 1812. This view is contested, it is true, by several very eminent authorities on Alpine history—and notably by our distinguished Honorary Member Dr. Dübi—but it is hard to see how Captain Farrar's admirably clear arguments against the claims put forward on behalf of the guides can be refuted.

The first *uncontested* ascent of the Finsteraarhorn was effected on August 10, 1829, by the two Haslital guides, Jakob Leuthold and Johann Währen; the second on August 16, 1842, by the guides Johann Jaun and Heinrich Lorentz (also of the Haslital). The third ascent—the first in which a tourist took part—was made by M. Rudolf Sulger of Bâle on September 6, 1842, accompanied by Andreas Abplanalp, and the two guides who made the previous ascent. From this date, until the attempt by the Schlagintweits with J. Jaun in 1851, the mountain seems to have remained undisturbed by travellers.

The only account which the Schlagintweits give is in a note in their *Neue Untersuchungen*, p. 22. They passed the night of August 14, 1851, on what they call the Rothsattel—now known as the Gemslücke. They then continue:

'Zugleich hatten wir die Absicht den folgenden Tag mit Jaun aus Meyringen und zwei anderen Führern auf das Finsteraarhorn zu gehen; allein das sehr schlechte Wetter machte es unmöglich bis auf den Gipfel zu gelangen.'

They got to a height of 3350 m., indicating about the present *Frühstücksplatz*.

The Jaun is the famous guide mentioned in 'A.J.' xxvii. 298 note.

July 20, 1856. E. L. AMES, England.—'Yesterday I made an attempt to ascend the Finsteraarhorn, and having reached the ridge which joins it with the Rothhorn was obliged to return for fear of being benighted on the glacier. J. J. Bennen, one of my guides, reached the summit himself in August 1855, and if we had had time I have very little doubt we should have been successful yesterday.

'As it was we did not get back till 9 o'clock, having started at 4 A.M., but our progress was necessarily rather slow owing partly to the difficult rock-climbing and partly to the depth and softness of the snow. By erecting some shelter for the night (such as a tent or a few boards would afford) at some point not very far from the mountain, the ascent would, I believe, be rendered practicable. Nothing could exceed the kindness and forethought of the landlord in providing for the success and comfort of the undertaking.'

It should be particularly noted that this was not an attempt by the ordinary route, but apparently the S.E. arête was gained.

Nothing is known of the ascent in 1855 said to have been made by Bennen. His *Führerbuch* only commences in 1859.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Ames was a member of the well-known Norfolk family and a very enterprising and capable mountaineer. By the great courtesy of his daughter Mrs. Bonvalot, we are able to reproduce his portrait. His obituary notice appeared in 'A.J.' xvi. 114. See also 'A.J.' xxxi. 221 and 231.

Mr. Ames mentions this attempt in 'P.P.G.' i. 207.

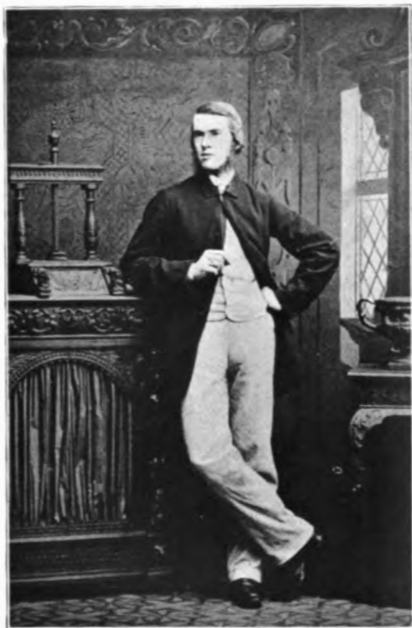
August 22, 1856. E. L. AMES, England.—'I made a second attempt yesterday to ascend the Finsteraarhorn, but by a different route. We slept at the well-known shelter at the foot of the Faulberg and proceeded next morning by the Grünhornlücke to the foot of the Finsteraarhorn which we reached in 3½ hours. We then ascended for 3 hours when the dense mist and violent wind obliged us to return. As far as we could judge the upper part of the ascent would have presented no unsurmountable difficulty, but it would have involved the necessity of passing a second night in the cave. As it was by dint of very fast walking we reached this hotel at 7.15 P.M., having turned back at 11 A.M.'

August 13, 1857.—'The following party ascended the highest peak of the Finsteraarhorn: J. F. Hardy, Sid. Coll., Cambridge; B. St. John Mathews, Trin. Coll., Cambridge; Wm. Mathews, Jun., St. John's Coll., Cambridge; J. C. W. Ellis, Sid. Coll., Cambridge;

<sup>2</sup> The traveller was possibly Mr. Robert Fowler, v. *A.J.* xxxii. 99.



LESLIE STEPHEN. c. 1860.



F. F. TUCKETT. c. 1860.



EDWARD WHYMFER.  
June, 1864.



EDWARD LEVI AMES. c. 1872.  
1832—1892.  
(Vol. XXXI, 221 and 231, and XXXII, 220.)



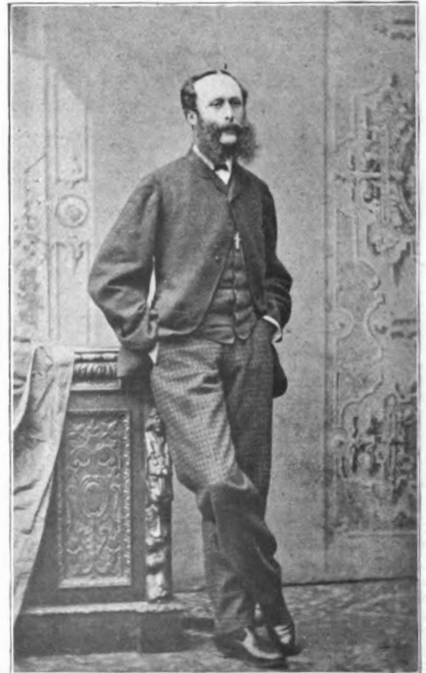
WILLIAM MATHEWS.



CHARLES EDWARD MATHEWS.



GEORGE S. MATHEWS.



B. ST. JOHN MATHEWS.

(Early portraits of the Mathews family.)

E. S. Kennedy, Caius Coll., Cambridge. James Nolan, a lad of 16 of the Grotto, was one of the party and reached the grat, a point about 1000 feet below the summit. We were accompanied by the following guides: Johann Jaun of Meiringen, Alois Bortis of Fiesch, Franz Wellig of Fiesch, Alexander Guntern of Biel, Auguste Simond of Chamonix and Jean-Baptiste Croz of Chamonix.

'We left this hotel August 12, 1857, at 2.30 p.m. and reached the sleeping quarters at the Faulberg about 6.10. The guides followed the side of the glacier, but two or three of the party selected its more central portion, and thus avoided all crevasses except those that could be easily leaped. At 2.30 a.m. on the following day we left the cabin and being favoured by a bright moon made rapid progress. We reached the Grün-Horn Lücke at 4.33, and the foot of the Finsteraarhorn at 5.25. We then commenced a rocky climb, rather stiff, which lasted two hours, after which we bore away towards the left, over the extensive snow fields which descend to the higher part of the Viescher Glacier. After some tolerably steep zig-zags up the snow we gained the saddle or grat that overhangs the Finsteraar Glacier, and is situated immediately at the base of the final cone of the Finsteraarhorn. This point we reached at 9.30 and here Wellig shut up, but by the internal application of cognac he was enabled to proceed about 200 feet higher. James Nolan also was here obliged to remain behind. From this point to the summit our course was over very awkward rocks and steeply inclined patches of snow, many of the rocks and projecting ridges of which overhung the glacier which flows beneath. The passage on the ridge is frequently so narrow as only to allow one person to pass at the same time. We reached the summit at 11.50 and found it to consist partly of rock, and partly of snow. The cairn of stones erected in the year 1841 by Johann Jaun and Herr Solger still remains. These are the only two persons who had previously reached the summit. The view as might be expected is of the most extensive and interesting character. We began the descent at 12.27, most of the party slept again at the Faulberg which they reached at 8, while Messrs. Kennedy and Hardy accompanied by Croz pushed on over the glacier and being delayed by darkness did not reach the hotel until one o'clock in the morning. It is but fair to add that Bortis led the way with great skill up the final peak, that Jaun and the two Chamonix guides gave great satisfaction and that Guntern who acted as porter proved himself equal to an experienced guide.'

The Rev. J. F. Hardy published a delightful narrative of this expedition, which was the first English ascent of the mountain, in 'P.P.G.' i: 283-308.

Johann Jaun (1806-1860) was the guide who made the ascent of 1842 with M. Sulger (see Captain Farrar's paper, 'A.J.' xxvii. 298). M. Julius Cathrein, the present proprietor of the Eggishorn Hotel, informs me that Alois Bortis was born

in Fiesch in 1824 and died there in 1882. Franz Wellig (also from Fiesch) was born in 1817 and died in 1864. He was a cousin of the founder of the hotel.

*August 29, 1857.* REV. J. LL. DAVIES and F. VAUGHAN HAWKINS, Trin. Coll., Cambridge.—‘Ascended the Finster Aar Horn August 29, with Bennen and Guntern as guides. Leaving the Faulberg at 4.30 A.M. we reached the top at 11 A.M. and returned by the Viescher Glacier, reaching this hotel at 7.30 the same evening. Our guides gave us every satisfaction.’

*August 23, 1859.*—‘The following party ascended the Finsteraarhorn: John Birkbeck, Robt. Hayward, Robt. Liveing, Thos. W. Hinchliff. We found the thermometer left by Professor Tyndall on the summit last year. It registered  $-32$  centigrade.’

Professor Tyndall publishes a letter signed ‘H.’ from a member of this party who broke the thermometer he had left on the summit the preceding year. See the narrative of his ascent of the Finsteraarhorn with Bennen on August 3, 1858, in his ‘Glaciers of the Alps,’ 1860, pp. 104–119.

*July 28, 1860.* F. F. TUCKETT.—‘I ascended the Finsteraarhorn yesterday with Mr. Wigram; the guides were Bennen, and J. B. Croz and V. Tairraz of Chamouni, all of whom did their work well and to our entire satisfaction. We can strongly recommend Bennen whom I also had on the Aletschhorn last year. I would direct the attention of travellers to a series of thermometers which I have placed at this hotel, the summit of the Aeggischhorn, the Faulberg, and the summit of the Finsteraarhorn and would beg that they be protected and observed. For further particulars see notice in *salle-à-manger*.

‘I concur entirely in the above remarks: the only addition which I have to make is a strong recommendation to all travellers to visit the Glacier of Viesch.’—W. Wigram, Hampstead.

*August 28, 1860.* W. E.<sup>3</sup> MATHEWS and C. S. DRAKE.—‘Ascended the Finsteraarhorn yesterday with Bennen and Guntern as guides. Leaving the Faulberg at 4.15 A.M. we reached the summit at 11.45 and returned by the Viescher Glacier, arriving here at 9 P.M. Our guides behaved admirably, particularly Bennen of whom we cannot speak too highly.’

*August 5, 1861.* LESLIE STEPHEN, W. E. UTTERSON KELSO and THOMAS RENNISON.—‘Ascended the Finsteraarhorn, having slept the previous night at the Rothhorn. [This is the so-called Rothloch ‘A.J.’ xxx. 356.] We started at 1.40 A.M. and reached the summit at 7.40, the ascent thus occupying just six hours. There was no cloud or wind and the thermometer stood at  $32^{\circ}$  Fahr. The view

<sup>3</sup> W. E. is correct.

from the summit was very fine, including Mont Blanc, the Monte Rosa chain, the valley of Grindelwald, Pilate, the Righi, and part of the lakes of Thun and Lucerne. We remained an hour and a half on the top and returned by the Viesch Glacier. Our guides were Melchior Anderegg, Alexander Guntern, and Martin Anderegg.'

*August 18-26, 1861.* P. H. LAWRENCE.—'Spent a week at this hotel during which I ascended the Finsteraarhorn. I slept at the Faulberg on the night of the 22nd—left the Faulberg at 1 A.M. 23rd Aug.—reached the foot of the Finsteraarhorn at 4.30 A.M.; the summit at 8.30; stayed there one hour and reached the base of the mountain again at 11.30. Returned to this inn by the Viescher Glacier and arrived at 7 P.M. The weather was cloudless (or nearly so) during the entire excursion and the view from the summit was entirely uninterrupted. My guides were Alexander Guntern (who took the lead), Johann Minning (both of this place) and Joseph Walker (of Visp). They were most efficient and skilful and extremely attentive to my comforts and in dangerous places their admirable coolness and courage was beyond praise. Minning has the strength of a giant.'

*July 9, 1862.* HORACE WALKER and LUCY WALKER.—'Left the Grimsel on the 8th, ascended the Oberaarhorn and passed the night on the Rothhorn. Ascended the Finsteraarhorn next morning and descended to this place. Guides Melchior Anderegg and Johann Fischer of Meyringen.'

*August 24, 1862.* J. J. HORNBY and T. H. PHILPOTT.—'Ascended the Finster Aar Horn August 26. Guides Christian Lauener and Antoine Walter. Left the Faulberg at 3.40 A.M., reached the top at 9.45, returned to this hotel at 6.15 P.M.'

*August 1863.* F. W. JACOMB, GEORGE CHATER and WILLIAM CUTHBERT HOPPER.—'Left this hotel at 12.45 P.M. August 10 and at 6.10 P.M. reached the S.W. slopes of the Rothhorn, about half an hour beyond the junction of the main Viescher Glacier with the branch descending from the Oberaarjoch. A gîte was formed by building a low wall round a huge stone shaped like the stone immediately behind this hotel. Leaving this palatial shelter at 4.15 A.M. on August 11 we gained the summit of the Finsteraarhorn at 10 A.M. having been much delayed by heavy snow storms. The same cause made the descent of the arête and the ice slopes below unusually long, so that we did not reach the foot of the ascent to the Grünhorn until 2.30 P.M., whence we crossed the col to the Aletsch Glacier and arrived here at 7.50 P.M. Our men were Christian Michel and Peter Baumann of Grindelwald with a local porter to the gîte.' ('A. J.' i. 319.)

*August 12, 1863.* M. F. THIOLY, of Geneva.

M. Thioly who was one of the original members of the Swiss Alpine Club, 'Section genevoise,' published a narrative

of this ascent in the first volume of the 'Echo des Alpes,' 1865.

July 12, 1864. N. GOODMAN, C. F. FOSTER and G. E. FOSTER with JOHANN KRONIG of Zermatt, ANTOINE RITZ and FRANZ STÜCKI.

August 2, 1864. CLIFFORD WIGRAM, REV. JOHN GOTT, HENRY C. HALLOWAY and HERBERT P. THOMAS. This party set out from the Grimsel by the Oberaarjoch.

August 3, 1864. J. R. FOWLER with ANTOINE RITZ and JOSEPH IMHOF.

August 8, 1864. CHARLES CAY and HENRY LEE WARNER with ANTON RITZ and STÜCKI.

July 15, 1865. H. D. EVANS, J. H. KITSON and R. G. HEAD with CHRISTIAN ALMER, ANTON RITZ and FRIDOLIN SCHWITZ.

August 9, 1865. S. SANDBACH PARKER and ALFRED T. PARKER.

September 13, 1865. D. J. ABERCROMBY, SHEIL and HEADLAM.

#### THE JUNGFRAU.

During the period of forty-five years which elapsed between the first ascent of the Jungfrau in 1811 and the opening of the Eggishorn Hotel in 1856 only five parties succeeded in reaching the summit. The following is, I believe, a complete list of the early ascents not recorded in the Eggishorn Travellers' Book :

1. August 3, 1811. JOHANN RUDOLF and HIERONYMUS MEYER (of Aarau) with ALOIS VOLKER and JOSEPH BORTIS.

2. September 3, 1812. GOTTLIEB MEYER (of Aarau) with ALOIS VOLKER and JOSEPH BORTIS.

3. September 10, 1828. PETER BAUMANN, ULRICH WITTWER, CHRISTIAN BAUMANN, PETER ROTH, HILDEBRAND BURGNER and PETER MOSER (of Grindelwald).

4. August 28, 1841. Messrs. AGASSIZ, FORBES, DU CHÂTELIER, and DESOR with JACOB LEUTHOLD, JOHANN JAUN, MELCHIOR BANNHOLZER and ANDREAS ABPLANALP. Narratives of this memorable expedition were published by Prof. Forbes in his 'Travels through the Alps' (new edition, 1900, pp. 427-455) and by M. Desor in his 'Excursions dans les Glaciers' (1844, pp. 373-417).

5. August 14, 1842. GOTTLIEB STUDER and FRIEDRICH BÜRKI (of Berne) with JOHANN VON WEISSENFLOH, MELCHIOR BANNHOLZER, CASPAR and ANDREAS ABPLANALP. M. Studer published an account of this expedition in his 'Topographische Mittheilungen aus dem Alpengebirge,' Berne, 1844.

6. July 26, 1856. KYRLE ALFRED CHAPMAN with CHRISTIAN ALMER and other guides.—The only authority for this ascent appears to be Almer's *Führerbuch*. In the footnote on p. 452 of Mr. Coolidge's edition of Forbes' 'Travels,' Mr. Chapman is erroneously described as 'Mr. Richard Chapman.'

7. July 19, 1856. EUSTACE ANDERSON and DERING WILLIAMS with CHRISTIAN ALMER. (Almer's *Führerbuch*.)

8. August 1, 1856. SIGMUND FORGES, of Vienna, with CHRISTIAN ALMER. (Almer's *Führerbuch*.)

July 31–August 4, 1857. J. B. LIGHTFOOT and FENTON J. A. HORT, Trin. Coll., Cambridge.—‘From Grimsel to Leukerbad. On the afternoon of August 1 we started for the ascent of the Jungfrau and slept that night’ . . . [*The rest has been torn off.*]

The Rev. Joseph Barber Lightfoot (1828–1889), Bishop of Durham, Chaplain to Queen Victoria, and his companion the Rev. Fenton John Anthony Hort (1828–1892), both eminent theologians, were original members of the Alpine Club (‘A.J.’ xv. 68).

July 7, 1860.—‘On the 7th of July the undermentioned persons left this hotel to make the ascent of the Jungfrau: Mr. Walker, A.C., Mr. Horace Walker, A.C., Miss Walker and Mr. C. E. Mathews, A.C. The guides were Melchior Anderegg, Alexander Albrecht<sup>4</sup> and Alexander Guntern, the latter being the only guide acquainted with the mountain. The party slept in the cleft in the rocks at the foot of the Faulberg, and started at 12.30 punctually, by moonlight, under a cloudless sky. The snow was marvellously good and the whole party reached the Col du Roththal at 6.30. Here it was thought expedient that Miss Walker should remain, she having shown signs of fatigue, and Mr. Walker, her father (who could easily have reached the summit), and Guntern remained with her.

At 8.30 Mr. Horace Walker and Mr. C. E. Mathews accompanied by Melchior and Albrecht gained the summit. Melchior led the expedition from commencement to termination with his usual energy and vigour. The whole party regained the Faulberg at 12.30 P.M. Melchior and Mr. C. E. Mathews after resting half an hour pushed on to the hotel which they reached at 5.30. The others rested longer at the Faulberg and arrived later in the evening. The weather was perfect and the view superb.’

August 19, 1860. L. STEPHEN.—‘Ascended the Jungfrau.’

August 20, 1860. J. KENT STONE, Harvard College, United States.—‘Ascended the Jungfrau alone with a Chamonix guide, Pierre-Marie Simond. We had neither of us seen the mountain before we set out to climb it, yet I believe our ascent was the shortest by some hours that has yet been made. Left the Faulberg at 2.20 A.M., reached the summit at 8 A.M. Ten minutes only on the summit as there was a fearful wind blowing from the North. Arrived at the Faulberg again at 11 A.M. Time from leaving the Faulberg to our

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<sup>4</sup> For some particulars of this guide v. *A.J.* xxxi. 310. Some letters of his among Mr. Adams-Reilly's papers show him to have been an intelligent mountaineer with views ahead of his time. He migrated to the Argentine in the 'sixties.

return thither 8 hours 50 minutes. Reached Hôtel de la Jungfrau at 3.45 p.m. Glorious view in every direction. I cannot but protest against the jealous spirit here which begrudges a Chamonix guide the honor of climbing an Oberland mountain. Everything possible was done to prevent our starting, and when we returned not a soul would believe that we had reached the summit. If any one desires a photographic description of the last arête and of the view' . . . [*The rest has been cut off.*]

Mr. J. K. Stone of Boston, U.S.A., now the Rev. Father Fidelis of Rome, has been a member of the Alpine Club since 1860. It will be remembered that he made the first ascent of the Blümlisalphorn with Sir Leslie Stephen and Dr. Robert Liveing. In his narrative of the expedition Stephen describes him as 'one of the very best walkers that it has ever been my good fortune to meet' ('A.J.' i. 359)—a compliment my venerable fellow-citizen may well feel proud of, for Stephen himself was regarded in his time as the 'fleetest of foot of the whole Alpine brotherhood.'

*July 25, 1861.* A. ADAMS REILLY, B.N.C., Oxford.—'From the Grimsel by the Oberaarjoch. Ascended the Jungfrau. Maximum of cold last winter as registered by minimum thermometer at the cave on the Faulberg—13°.'

*August 18, 1861.* G. B. JOHNSON and E. B. PREST.—'Anyone attempting the Jungfrau this year must take a ladder.'

*July 1862.* F. THIOLY, de Genève.—'Accompagné de deux guides de l'Hôtel Wellig j'ai fait l'ascension de la Jungfrau le 20 juillet 1862, étant parti à 2 heures de la grotte du Faulberg où j'ai passé la nuit du 19 au 20. Après avoir vaincu de grandes difficultés j'arrivai au sommet 12,827 pieds à 2 heures après midi. De ce point la vue est d'une magnificence indescriptible par sa beauté. A mon retour n'ayant pu atteindre avant la nuit l'Hôtel de la Jungfrau au pied de l'Eggischhorn j'ai dû passer la nuit près d'un rocher au bord du lac de Marjelen. Enfin le 21 à 4 heures du matin je rentrai [*several words torn away*] et respectable hôtelier Wellig auquel je me fais le plaisir de marquer ici toute la reconnaissance pour les soins et attentions dont il m'a entouré pendant mon séjour chez lui.'

M. Thioly published a narrative of this ascent in the 'Echo des Alpes,' 1865.

*August 1-2, 1862.* C. S. PARKER, C. H. PILKINGTON, R. M. STEPHENSON.—'Made the ascent of the Jungfrau . . . guides Nägeli, Christian Michel and Rubi of Grindelwald.'

*July 6, 1863.* F. MORSEHEAD.—'Ascended the Jungfrau. Left the Faulberg at 1 A.M., reached summit at 8.20, returned to this hotel at 3.45 P.M. Snow very good as far as the sattel, very bad



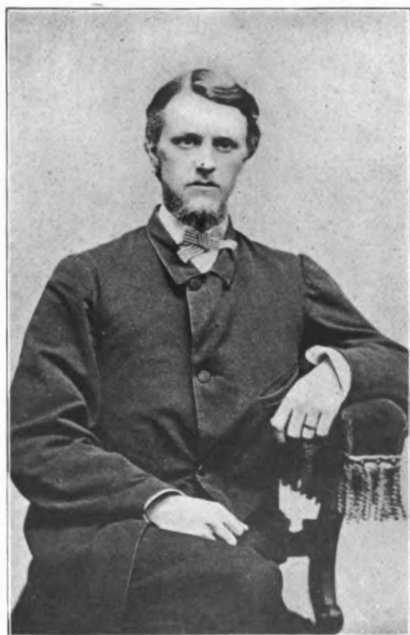
**HEREFORD B. GEORGE.**  
(c. 1865.)



**EAGLESFIELD BRADSHAW SMITH.**  
(See P. 240 and Vol. XXXI. 318.)



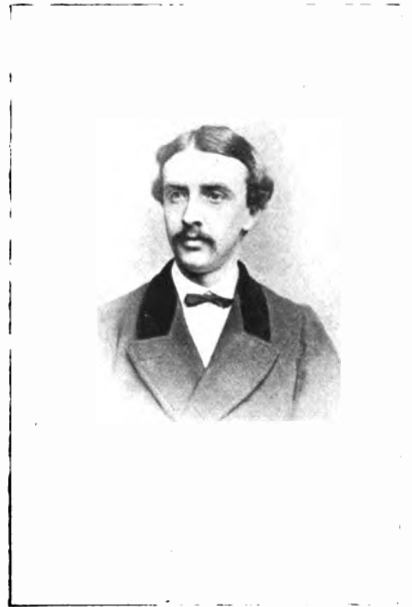
**GEORGE E. FOSTER.**



**J. KENT STONE.**  
(See P. 226.)



CRAUFURD GROVE.



REGINALD J. S. MACDONALD.



THOMAS W. HINCLIFF.



JOHN FREDERICK HARDY.

afterwards—had to cut steps through it into the ice all the way. Guides Perren and Moritz Andermatten.'

*July 14, 1863.*—' We the undersigned with Tony Walter, Antoine Ritz, two young men of this hotel and Ulrich Lauener as guides, accomplished the ascent of the Jungfrau on Tuesday 14th. We found the snow in a very good state although on the last slope we had to cut steps for some two hours. We left the Faulberg at 1.30 and reached the summit at 8.30. The guides all acted to our satisfaction.—Beaumont Wilson Jolly, P. J. Cooke, Stanley Hoole, Holford Secretan and F.S. Hartman.' [According to a note in another writing the porters were Fridolin Schwitz and Franz Stücky.]

*July 23, 1863.* JAMES ROBERTSON, H. J. CHANTOR and T. H. PHILPOTT.—' Left the Faulberg at 3.45 A.M. on the 22nd, reached the top of the Jungfrau at 1.30 P.M. and returned to the Faulberg at about 8 P.M. The severity of the day's work was increased by a very high wind on the last slopes, and afterwards by thick mists and soft snow. Time spent in cutting steps three hours and a half. Guides Peter Baumann and Peter Rubi with Peter Kaufmann as third man—all from Grindelwald.'

*August 7, 1863.* T. H. PHILPOTT, Professor TYNDALL and J. J. HORNBY.—' Ascended the Jungfrau. The good state of the snow during the first part of the route, and the excellent step-cutting of our guides, especially Christian Almer, enabled us to make a very rapid ascent. Left Faulberg cave 1.15 A.M., reached the top of the Jungfrau 7.15, reached Faulberg cave at 11.30 A.M. Guides Christian Almer and Christian Lauener.'

Described in Professor Tyndall's 'Hours of Exercise in the Alps,' 1871, pp. 180–191.

*August 9, 1864.* JULES JACOT, of La Chaux-de-Fonds, with A. RITZ and JOHANN MICHEL.

*August 9, 1864.* F. C. GROVE, R. S. MACDONALD and L. STEPHEN.—' Arrived here from Lauterbrunnen by way of the Roththal Sattel and the Jungfrau. We left Lauterbrunnen at 1.15 A.M. intending to follow Professor Tyndall's route over the "Lauenen Thor." Observing however a couloir leading from the Roththal to the Roththal Sattel (the point reached in ascents of the Jungfrau) we determined upon climbing it and after about four hours and a half of rather difficult rock and snow work, reached the sattel at 11.45 A.M. Hence we ascended the Jungfrau, reaching the summit at 12.30 and returning to the sattel by 1.10 P.M. We arrived at this house at 7.15. Guides Melchior Anderegg and Jacob Anderegg, porter Bischoff of Lauterbrunnen, a good and useful man.'

This is the famous first ascent of the Jungfrau from the Roththal ('A.J.' i. 484).

*August 16, 1864.* F. W. JACOMB and J. A. K. HUDSON.—Passage of the Mönchjoch and ascent of the 'Vischergrat' and the Jungfrau.

June 13, 1865. T. S. KENNEDY with ANTON RITZ and PETER PERREN. Attempt on the Jungfrau.

June 28, 1865. FRANK WALKER and Miss LUCY WALKER with MELCHIOR ANDEREGG, JOHANN FISCHER and PETER FISCHER.

June 28, 1865. W. H. HAWKER.—Attempt on the Jungfrau with Ulrich Lauener and Anton Ritz. He adds that he was the first to sleep in the new hut erected on the Faulberg by M. Wellig.

August 10, 1865. Rev. J. W. BOYD and LLEWELYN SAUNDERSON with ANTON RITZ and JOHANN FISCHER and FRIDOLIN SCHWITZ.

July 27, 1866. G. E. FOSTER with PETER RUBI and HANS BAUMANN.

### THE MÖNCHJOCH AND MÖNCH.

It was long believed that this great pass was used in early times as a route between the Upper Valais and Grindelwald. Professor J. R. Wyss writes in his 'Voyage dans l'Oberland Bernois' (Berne, 1817, ii. 263) that the glacier

'obstruait encore si peu le passage dans le Valais, qu'une noce vint de ce pays dans le Grindelwald. En 1578, un cortège de baptême passa par la même route, et en 1605, une autre noce. Suivant la tradition, une forêt de pins alviers occupait la place que les glaces ont maintenant envahie; l'on a souvent remarqué qu'elles en ont amené des tiges, et l'on y a vu sur leurs bords des plantes de ces arbres qui tenaient encore à la terre par leurs racines desséchées.'

M. A. Wäber however has shown in an able paper in the 'J.S.A.C.' (vol. xxvii. pp. 253-274) that there is no historical foundation whatever for this legend. Although both sides of the pass have been ascended by parties on their way to the Jungfrau before Messrs. Charles Hudson, Joad, and Birkbeck crossed from Grindelwald to the Eggishorn, their expedition was nevertheless the first complete passage, the original record of which appeared in 'A.J.' xxxii. 80-82.

September 12, 1859. ARTHUR MILMAN and J. S. WENDER.—'By the Mönch Joch.'

August 21, 1860. JOHN ORMSBY.—'From Grindelwald by the route of the [*illegible*] and Gross Aletsch Glaciers, crossing the Viescher Pass close under the E. side of the Mönch. Passage rather laborious owing to the softness of the snow, and the difficulty of avoiding concealed crevasses. Slept at the Faulberg with the intention of ascending the Jungfrau next morning, a scheme which had to be given up owing to bad weather. There is no reason why this pass should not be crossed in one day if the snow were in a favorable condition.'

*August 29–31, 1860.* FRED. M. DARLEY and JOHN H. DARLEY, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.—‘From Grindelwald over the pass called by Mr. Birkbeck the “Mönch Joch.” We left Grindelwald with Peter Michel as guide and two porters at 2 o’clock P.M. on the 28th, and after four and a half hours’ walk reached the Eiger Hole where we slept. The next morning we left the Eiger Hole at 4.30 A.M. and reached the summit of the col at 8.30 and this hotel at 6.10 P.M. We kept the Trugberg to our left passing between that mountain and the Mönch. We are of opinion that the route would be shortened by some three hours by keeping the Trugberg always on the right, in fact not crossing the second col between the Mönch and Trugberg, and we think that by pursuing this route many dangerous concealed crevasses which gave us much trouble would be entirely avoided, and that the pass could be made in from 14 to 18 hours from this place to Grindelwald. Of course much would depend on the state of the snow, for the snow slope on the other side of the pass is very steep and if the snow was hard much time might be lost in cutting steps. We were thoroughly satisfied with our guide Peter Michel and with our porter Peter Ehrehatte, neither of whom had crossed the pass previously. For an account of the pass taking it from this side see Mr. Birkbeck’s description of his passage on the 6th of August 1858 given further back in this book. We leave for Zermatt this day.’

*July 12, 1861.* Captain H. E. GALTON and H. B. GEORGE.—‘From Grindelwald by the pass called by Mr. Birkbeck the Mönchjoch. We left Grindelwald on the afternoon of July 11th with Christian Almer and Ulrich Wenger as guides and slept in the Eigerhöhle which we left at 4.50 A.M. on the 12th. About 5.30 we began to ascend the Viescher-Wand on which the snow was very soft and deep, so that it took us 5½ hours to reach the col, whence we descended between the Trugberg and Viescher Hörner. Dense mist prevented Almer, who alone knew anything of the pass, from seeing the right way, and we consequently kept too much to the right in descending the great central glacier. The snow was soft the whole way to the Aletsch Glacier with a good many hidden crevasses, so that we did not reach the Faulberg until 5 P.M. nor this hotel until 9.30 P.M. We cannot speak too highly in favour of Almer who led the way for at least ten out of the twelve hours during which we were walking roped together over snow very commonly knee-deep.’

*August 29, 1861.* J. WHITE and F. E. PROTHERO.—‘Crossed the Mönchjoch, unfortunately in very bad weather. Slept at the Eiger Höhle, left it at 4.50 A.M. and arrived here at 5.15 P.M.’

*July 25, 1862.* W. S. THOMASON, COUTTS TROTTER and W. TROTTER.—‘From Grindelwald by the Mönchjoch.’

*July 30, 1862.* C. H. PILKINGTON, R. M. STEPHENSON, C. A. STOLTERFORTH and E. LATHAM.—‘From Grindelwald by the Mönchjoch.’

*July 1863.* R. J. S. MACDONALD.—‘Having left the Faulberg

at 1.30 A.M. under the guidance of Melchior Anderegg and Christian Almer, I reached the base of the western arête leading up to the top of the Mönch at 5.15. Melchior and Almer then pronounced in favour of the eastern ridge (that overlooking the Mönchjoch). So we marched along the base of the mountain, and reached the foot of the arête about 6.30. Patches of rocks, ice, or snow, were succeeded by a long and steep arête leading up to the summit. On this occasion this ridge was chiefly knife-edges of ice. The peak itself was attained at 8.30. It consists of two small snow summits rising but little above the level of a snow plateau. The descent of the arête occupied about an hour, and we were back at the Faulberg at 2 P.M., and at the Aeggischhorn Hotel about 6.30. The ascent of the mountain was much facilitated by the fresh snow which had fallen two days before. This is the second ascent on record, the first having been made from Grindelwald in 1856 by Dr. Porges of Vienna. Mr. H. B. George, who was prevented by illness from joining the expedition, kindly gave me the services of Almer for the occasion.' ('A.J.' i. 423-429.)

August 4, 1863. J. J. HORNBY and T. H. PHILPOTT.—'From Grindelwald by the Mönch Joch and Mönch. Having left the Eiger cave at 2.15 A.M. and crossed the Mönch Joch we reached the summit of the Mönch at 11 o'clock by the arête described on a previous page by Mr. Macdonald. We have nothing to add to that gentleman's account except that the arête in question might perhaps be more correctly described as the South-Eastern or Southern arête. There is another ridge more to the Eastward and more immediately overlooking the Mönch Joch by which the first ascent (that of Dr. Porges) was made. This was found to be extremely difficult, consisting mainly of steep rocks. We are informed by Christian Almer, who has been present at the only three ascents of the mountain yet made, that the first ascent occupied three days. The first night was passed near the summit of the col, the next day was occupied in ascending the mountain and returning to the sleeping place, the third in descending to Grindelwald. By following Mr. Macdonald's route it is possible to ascend the mountain either from the Faulberg or Eiger cave and to reach this hotel the same evening. Our guides Christian Almer and Christian Lauener thought it would be possible to ascend by the western arête, but probably the ascent would be longer than that which we have taken. We were nearly three hours in ascending the arête, one hour in descending. We reached the Faulberg at 4 P.M. where we rested for an hour and arrived here at 8.'

August 4, 1863. GEORGE CHATER and WILLIAM C. HOPPER.—'From Grindelwald by the Mönchjoch ascending the highest Viescherhorn *en route*. Left Eiger Höhle at 2.20 A.M., arrived at summit of joch at 6.30, left at 7.30 and descended to Trugberg Glacier. Tempted by the apparent proximity of the Viescherhorn and having still so many hours before us we determined to try the ascent.

Accordingly we left the knapsacks on the glacier and at 8.10 commenced the ascent up a very steep glacier leading straight up to a point about half-way up the arête. Reached the arête at 9.40 and top at 11.10. Left at 11.30 and arrived at knapsacks at 1.25 P.M. Started again at 1.50 and arrived at this hotel at 7.45. This is the second ascent on record. Guides Peter Baumann and Ulrich Kaufmann of Grindelwald.' ('A.J.' i. 319-320.)

*August 13, 1864.* Rev. J. G. SMYTH.—'From Grindelwald by the Mönchjoch.'

*June 24, 1865.* Lord F. DOUGLAS.—'From Grindelwald by the Mönchjoch. From Eiger cave to summit three hours and a quarter. From summit to this hotel seven hours. Guides Peter Inäbnit and Peter Egger (Grindelwald) whom I thoroughly recommend.'

*July 12, 1866.* O. W. HOLMES and LESLIE STEPHEN.—'From Grindelwald by Mönchjoch and Mönch. Left Eiger cave at 3.20 A.M., reached summit of Mönch 10.10 A.M., arrived at this house at 8 P.M. having been much delayed by the unusual quantity of snow on the Aletsch Glacier.'

#### THE FIRST ASCENT OF THE ALETSCHHORN.

*June 16, 1859.* F. F. TUCKETT, A.C., Bristol, Angleterre.—'I arrived here yesterday morning at 5.45 and found 1 and  $\frac{1}{4}$  hours' snow between this and the summit of the Eggishorn, whence after enjoying the magnificent view for two hours I descended upon the Aletsch Glacier, followed it as far as the Aletschwald and returned by the Furka and Bettmer Alp. The glacier was completely covered with snow as low down as a line drawn between the Aeggischhorn-Ulmenhorn (to the right of the Aren or Mittel Aletsch Glacier) and a coating of ice and half-melted snow covered the Märjelen-See, except round the edges where a narrow but not continuous line of open water was visible: two chamois which we startled descended the rocks at our feet, crossed the lake in dashing style, and cleared the band of water on the further side by the aid of some floating blocks and some magnificent leaps.

'I start to-morrow unless the weather should prove adverse for a sleeping place on the western slopes of the Olmen or Dreieckhorn, from which I hope on the following day to accomplish the ascent of the Aletschhorn for the first time: my guides are Victor Tairraz of Chamounix, Peter Bohren of Grindelwald and J. Bennen of Lax, besides a porter as far as our sleeping place. I cannot speak in sufficiently high terms of the kindness of M. Wellig who in the first place opened the hotel expressly for my benefit, and since I have been here has done everything in his power for my comfort to facilitate the objects I had in view, so much that should I fail in my attempt to descend to Kippel in the Lötschthal I shall have little cause for regret.' . . . [*A number of barometrical observations have been omitted.*]

June 19.—‘I started at 7 A.M. on the 17th, and after a long pull thro’ soft snow reached the col to the west of the Aeggischhorn at 8.50, and the Aletsch Grat at 9.30, and the foot of the Mittel Aletsch Glacier at 10.45. After lunching we ascended by snow slopes on the left to the central level part of the glacier, and crossing it diagonally a little to the west of north, commenced a search along the east bank for a resting place. About 2 a most convenient cave was discovered 2 or 300 feet above the ice which we soon converted into very comfortable quarters, and dubbed it “Gasthaus zum Bennen.” A little lower to the left is a much smaller cleft which is everything that can be desired for one person whom it will exactly hold, and I can speak most highly of it from personal experience. The night was extremely cold, but having made all snug we sallied forth before it was dark for a good scramble up the rocks, which warmed us capitally, after which pipes, songs, and some excellent grog (made with the help of the very convenient Russian furnace to be obtained of Stevens, Edinburgh) made the time pass merrily till ten, when we retired to our hole and had some three hours’ comfortable sleep, disturbed only at intervals by Bennen’s songs, which Tairraz informed me never once ceased from the moment I quitted the cave till my return in the morning (memorandum for a paper to be read before the British Association, as to whether lying down with a bottle of rum near one’s head is calculated to improve the musical faculties). On rousing at 1 A.M. and putting my head out into the keen air, I found glorious moonlight streaming up the glacier valley and no cloud to be seen, so climbing up to our cave I came full upon the tide of questionable melody which Bohren, and by this time Bennen also, insisted upon pouring forth, greatly to Victor’s disgust and my disapproval, as I feared they would not be up to their day’s work. Some hot tea was soon ready and proved very acceptable to all, tho’ Bohren insisted for a long time that it was soup (I had made some Julienne au gras for dinner the previous day) and would have eaten the leaves if I had not interfered. Victor and I did the cooking, the porters snored, Bohren still sang and Bennen helped him to do nothing, constantly ejaculating “La-a-a(hic)sact uns trinken (hic) und so früh wie mög(hic)lich (hic) ge-e-e-hen.” At 2.30 we descended to the glacier and found the snow with which it was entirely covered in splendid order. The view was most glorious, and I observed the peculiar phosphorescent appearance of the snow to which attention has been drawn by the brothers Schlagintweit. A band of light from two to three inches broad surrounded our feet at every step, which may however very probably have been caused by the moonlight falling upon the fine particles of powdery snow disturbed by us.

‘At 3 A.M. we commenced the ascent of the slopes of snow and névé at the head of the valley; about 3.30 [*several words illegible*] . . . broke upon the Aletschhorn; at 4 the temperature was 19°



PETER TAUGWALDER ("Old Peter").  
(First ascent of the Cervin.)



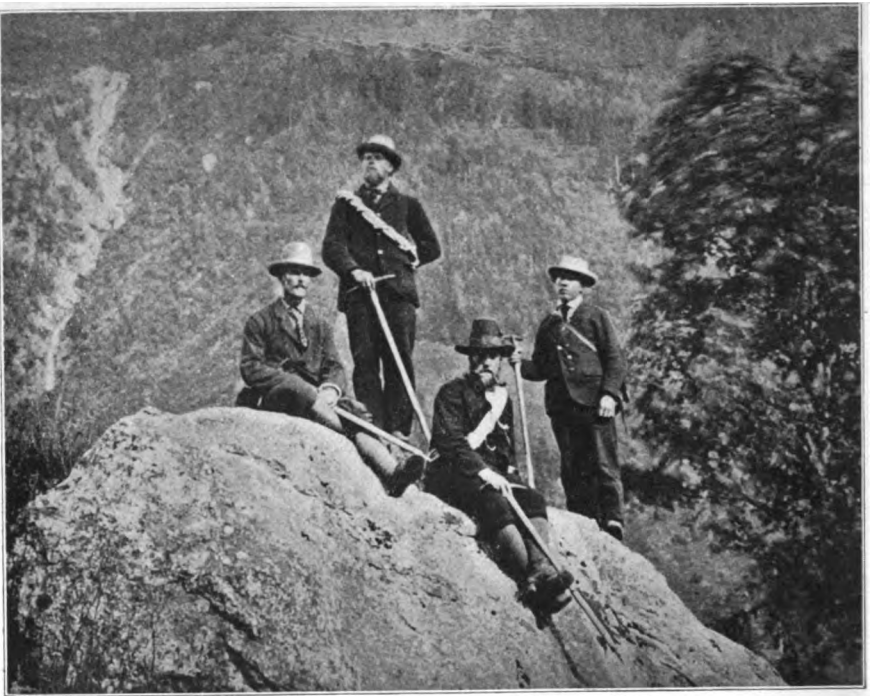
J. J. BENNEN, of Laax.  
(Taken in London, 1861.)



JAKOB ANDEREGG. HANS BAUMANN.  
A. W. MOORE. G. E. FOSTER.



VICTOR TAIRRAZ,  
of Chamonix.



Johann Fischer. Ulrich Almer.  
 T. S. Kennedy. Frank Marshall.  
 CHAMONIX, 1873.

*(Presented by Herr Melchior Fischer.)*



James Jackson.

Chr. Almer.

J. H. Kitson.

Ulrich Almer.

A GROUP IN 1876.

Fahrenheit. At . . . the sun's rays struck the highest point colouring it most gloriously, and the thermometer fell to  $15^{\circ}$ ; at 4.45 it only rose to  $18^{\circ}$  in the [several words illegible] which was driving fine powdery snow like wreaths of smoke over the ridge; this last was gained at its lowest point by 5.15, and a glorious view to the north burst upon us, our elevation being already great, certainly not less than 11,500 feet English, according to a rough calculation of my observation with the barometer. Here the porter knocked up and returned to the cave whilst we attacked a fowl, a bottle of champagne and were as comfortable as could be expected considering the wind occasionally swept over the col in fierce gusts, and the thermometer sank to  $14^{\circ}$ . At 5.45 started again and slowly ascending passed along just below the summit of the arête which leads to the second and higher col or depression; steps had to be cut the whole way and it required three quarters of an hour to traverse, but the snow held firm and I do not think the danger was great, tho' later in the day, or at a more advanced season it might prove a very awkward obstacle: we therefore carefully noted the slopes of névé to our left in front in order, if needful, to attempt a descent by them on our return. At 6.30 (we) commenced the third division of the ascent, passing at 7.5 to the left round a bergschrund and a portion of the upper névé of a tributary of the lower glacier. At 8.15 (we) reached a second bergschrund beneath the final climb, up which 200 or more steps cut in the hard frozen snow led us at 8.30 to the summit. For some time previously both Bohren and Bennen suffered a good deal, the former from general exhaustion, the latter from difficulty of breathing. Victor and I, on the contrary, were in splendid condition, the only reverse to which in my case was an uncomfortable suspicion that two toes of the left foot were frozen, but which proved to be groundless. The summit itself is in my waistcoat pocket, but what I left behind forms a ridge some 60 or 80 feet long, slightly curved, and running in a N.W. and S.E. direction. The thermometer fell to  $10^{\circ}$  and only rose to  $20^{\circ}$  in the sun, whilst occasionally we were severely peppered with the snow which the north wind dashed against us: under these circumstances and as Bohren and Bennen were still suffering I did not think it well to remain as long as I should otherwise have liked, tho' the view was so magnificent, especially at this early season when scarcely anything but snow was visible, that I could hardly tear myself away. It probably differs but little from that from the Finsteraarhorn, but the position being more central is perhaps on the whole preferable, as far as my own experience goes. I think the ascent by no means difficult; in fact I was quite surprised to find myself on the top with so little exertion: a month or two later, however, or a less favourable day might make all the difference between such an ascent as mine and one involving great fatigue and danger; still on the whole considering its proximity, the good sleeping

quarters, its great height and not excessive steepness, I am inclined to think it will become a favorite with climbers in general and the Alpine Club in particular.

At 9.20, after spending three quarters of an hour on the summit, we commenced the descent which, being as steep as the Grimsel side of the Strahleck (rather more than  $50^\circ$  by a clinometer) and the wind having filled up the steps, was a little awkward, but "slow and steady" soon brought us to the bergschrund which was cleared by a flying leap. At 10.25 we reached the second or higher col and finding the arête still in good order, traversed it rapidly, reaching the first col at 10.50. Descending a few steps, we halted to lunch, and I made some observations and sketches. After remaining here about an hour we took leave of Bennen, who was to return to the Aeggischhorn with the porter Alexander Bürcher, whilst Tairraz, Bohren and I determined, as we had plenty of daylight before us, to attempt a descent to the west arm of the upper Aletsch Glacier and so over the Lötsch-sattel to Kippel, but we had scarcely descended 100 yards when Tairraz who was before me staggered and appeared to be struggling violently to maintain his footing: the next instant a layer of snow about a foot in depth broke away for at least a hundred yards right to the left of him and went hissing down the slope which must have been about  $40^\circ$ , I should think tho' I had not time to measure it as we instantly made the best of our way back in dead silence, knowing that the same thing might occur again, and that there would be small chance of escape, as the bottom of the slope is terminated by precipices. Fortunately I was able to drive my alpenstock deep into the snow so as to support Victor till he could regain his balance, and as Bohren held on above staunchly, no ill followed. Descending rapidly, on the other side, we soon overtook Bennen and reached our night quarters at 1.20 by which time the heat was scorching and we therefore resolved to rest and refresh ourselves there till the sun had lowered a little. About 4 P.M. we again started, reached the Aletsch Glacier at 5 and the Märjelen see at 6, the whole distance over soft snow which in places was thin and awkward letting us through frequently into the crevasses. At the Märjelen see we lounged about for nearly an hour and following the canal or water course above the glacier of Viesch and round the slopes of the Aeggischhorn, arrived here at 8.15 P.M. and were warmly welcomed by that best of hosts M. Wellig. To-morrow I start for Kippel by the Aletsch Glacier and Lötsch sattel and must now apologise to my successors for the space I have occupied, pleading in excuse a wet Sunday and nothing to do.'

Mr. Tuckett's narrative of this climb appeared in 'P.P.G.', second series, vol. ii. pp. 33-72.

July 30, 1859. SAM. BRUCE and ROBERT DUNVILLE, Ireland.—  
'We started yesterday morning at 3 A.M. to ascend the Aletschhorn,

the second highest mountain in the Oberland and which has only been ascended once before. It is useless to give any account of the mountain as Mr. Tuckett, who was the first to ascend it, has given a long and very correct description in this book. We slept last night at the cave he mentions and started for the top this morning at 3 A.M. which we reached at 8 A.M., and remained there for an hour. The view was magnificent, we saw Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa very well and the guides saw Fribourg. We left at 9 and got to the cave at 11.45. The descent was rather difficult and in one or two places dangerous as the sun had melted the snow and below the snow was nothing but ice.

'We got back to the Aeggischhorn Hotel at 7.30 P.M. after having spent one of the pleasantest days of our lives, though at the same time a very fatiguing one. We cannot speak too highly of the conduct of our guides, Joseph Bennen in particular, but Bortis and Guntern are both very good. We must also mention that the landlord rendered us every assistance in his power, and we shall always have great pleasure in recommending anyone to this hotel.'

*July 7-11, 1862.* E. M. ROYDS and W. WIGRAM.—'We yesterday ascended the Aletsch Horn accompanied by Croz of Chamonix and Walter of this place as guides, the snow being in perfect order we reached the summit at a few minutes past 8 having started from our bivouack at twenty minutes to 3.'

*August 2, 1862.* L. STEPHEN.—'Ascended the Aletschhorn. Times, left sleeping place at 4 A.M., reached summit at 7 A.M. Left at 8 A.M., reached this house at 1 P.M. Snow in first-rate order. Guide Walter of this place whom I strongly recommend.'

*August 7, 1863.* GEORGE CHATER, WILLIAM C. HOPPER, and GEORGE PILKINGTON.—'Ascended Aletschhorn. Left sleeping place on slopes of Olmenhorn at 4.15 A.M., reached first col in three hours fifteen minutes, thence to summit in two hours fifty minutes. Total nine hours thirty-five minutes exclusive of halts. Guides Peter Baumann and Ulrich Kaufmann of Grindelwald.'

*August 8, 1863.* Mr. and Mrs. STEPHEN WINKWORTH, Manchester.—'Left this hotel at 12.45 P.M., arrived at "Hotel Bennen" at 4.30. Here we passed the night under the rock so called by Mr. Tuckett, and at 2.15 the following morning started for the Aletsch Horn. The weather was unpromising, and thought it advisable to avoid the usual arête and climb the steep ice slopes on the left of the head of the glacier. This route, though very steep, was shorter and sheltered from the wind. We reached the summit at 8.30 in a heavy snow fall, descended to the glacier below the gîte at 11.15 and reached this hotel at 3.30 P.M. Our guides were J. B. Croz (Chamonix) and J. J. Bennen, whose conduct and skill on this as on every previous expedition were beyond all praise.'

*August 13, 1864.* J. J. HORNBY and T. H. PHILPOTT.—'From the Bell Alp over the Aletschhorn. Left Bell Alp Hotel at 3.30 A.M., reached the summit of the Aletschhorn at 9.30 and remained there

an hour; reached this hotel at 4.10 P.M. The good state of the snow and the steps cut by a party who had ascended the mountain the day before helped our ascent very much.' ('A.J.' i. 434.)

July 13, 1865. A. G. PULLER and J. H. KITSON. Ascent of the Aletschhorn descending to Bel Alp.

#### THE FIRST PASSAGE OF THE LAUWINEN-THOR (LAUTHOR).

August 9, 1860. JOHN TYNDALL and F. VAUGHAN HAWKINS (*both names have been cut out of the Travellers' Book*).—'From Lauterbrunnen by a new pass over the Roththal Sattel between the Jungfrau and Gletscherhorn. We left Lauterbrunnen at 3.40 A.M., with Christian Lauener and Kaufmann, and in 4½ hours' easy walking reached the upper level of the glacier marked *Roththal* on the Federal map. From this point the ridge to be crossed rises very steeply in front; we could see a snow col at a great height above us (nearly midway between the point marked 3784 and the word "Gletscherhorn" on the Fed. map) where we proposed to cross, and about half past eight began to ascend in the line of a couloir descending from the col, in which the snow lay deep enough to afford a good footing. After some time we diverged to the rocks on the right, but these proved impracticable and we were obliged to return to the line of the couloir and cut our way up to the col. We reached the top at half past three after nearly 7 hours' work upon the slope, which is very steep, especially near the top, and would scarcely be practicable except in a favorable condition of the snow. The top once reached, however, all difficulty was at once at an end: we descended the slopes of the névé to the Aletsch glacier and arrived at the Märjelen see before dark. Night coming on before we could reach this house caused some delay, and we did not get here until half past nine or thereabouts. The pass was a somewhat laborious one, and the weather towards afternoon cold and threatening.' ('Hours of Exercise in the Alps,' 1871, pp. 1-17.)

#### THE FIRST PASSAGE OF THE EIGERJOCH.

August 1859. LESLIE STEPHEN, WILLIAM MATHEWS and G. S. MATHEWS.—'Accompanied by the guides Ulrich Lauener of Lauterbrunnen and Jean-Baptiste Croz and Michel Charlet of Chamonix, we went to the Wengern Alp on the 5th of August for the purpose of attempting a pass on to the Aletsch glacier, by way of the Guggi or Eiger glaciers. On the 6th of August we examined the former and ascended as far as the snow basin under the precipices of the Mönch, but the upper part of the glacier appearing extremely difficult, we determined upon trying the Eiger glacier. We left the Hôtel de la Jungfrau on the Wengern Alp at 3.45 A.M. on the 6th of August and after a difficult passage thro' the séracs of the Eiger glacier (going up) between the steep broken névé and the

lower slopes of the Mönch. This brought us up to the highest snow basin of the Eiger glacier enclosed by a grat connecting the Eiger and the Mönch. The lowest part of this grat is a col close to the Eiger; we reached this at 10.25 and found that it overlooked the glacier flowing down to the Strahleck. The ridge was so steep on the further side that we could not see what lay immediately below us; it was therefore impossible to descend here, and it was equally so to follow the arête towards the Mönch. We were therefore obliged to descend to the snow basin, and ascend again to a point in the ridge much nearer to the Mönch. Our route here was up a steep slope of frozen snow, in which about 700 steps had to be cut, and from the want of a proper ice-axe this occupied no less than six hours and it was five o'clock in the evening before we reached the ridge. We descended a little on the further side and found a ledge of granite rocks along which we walked and cutting a few more steps in the snow beyond, arrived at another col just below the Mönch on the north-eastern side; we reached this point at 6 o'clock. We then descended snow slopes of moderate steepness to the névé connecting the (*illegible*) and Aletsch glaciers, and followed the latter glacier between the Trugberg and the Viescherhörner. We made a push for the Faulberg, but from failing light were obliged to sleep on the rocks at the Trugberg. After passing a very uncomfortable night we started at daylight and arrived at the Aeggischhorn at 9 o'clock on the morning of the 7th. We wish to express our admiration for the skill and courage with which Lauener led the way over this difficult and hitherto untrodden pass.' ('The Playground of Europe,' 1871, pp. 113-137.)

#### THE FIRST PASSAGE OF THE FIESCHERJOCH.

*July 31, 1862.* J. F. HARDY, H. A. MORGAN, R. LIVEING and LESLIE STEPHEN.—'From Grindelwald by the Vieschergat. We slept at the "Kostenstein" immediately under the Strahleck, started at 5 A.M., and ascended the grat by a long series of snow slopes varied by some troublesome crevasses. We used a ladder, and should have found the ascent difficult, if not impossible, without it. We reached the summit at 2 P.M., but owing to a storm of wind and snow, did not strike the lowest parts of the ridge. If we had done so some time would have been saved. We reached the Märjelen see at 9 P.M., and after losing our way several times, got to this hotel at 2.20 A.M. this morning. Guides Christian and Peter Michel, Peter Baumann and Peter Im Abnit' [in Stephen's writing]. ('The Playground of Europe,' 1871, pp. 152-164.)

#### THE FIRST PASSAGE OF THE JUNGFRAUJOCH.

*July 9-21, 1862.* H. B. GEORGE and A. W. MOORE.—'From the Wengern Alp by a new pass between the Mönch and the Jungfrau.

We joined at Grindelwald the party intent upon the same expedition, consisting of Messrs. Stephen, Hardy, and Morgan, who returned to Grindelwald from the top of the pass by the Mönch Joch.

'An attempt on the previous day having proved the necessity of taking a ladder, we left the Wengern Alp with a porter in addition to the guides previously engaged, who were Christian Almer, Christian and Peter Michel, and three other Grindelwald men. We started at 3.15 A.M., reached the side of the Guggi Glacier about 4.45 and the plateau under the séracs at 6.20. The passage of these séracs, which took about an hour, was extremely difficult, and later in the day would have been dangerous: three of the guides had passed through before, or we should have taken a much longer time. At the top of the séracs was a very wide crevasse, that could only be crossed by means of the ladder, as there was no way of turning it. After crossing this crevasse which took some time, we ascended a short slope to the foot of the ice cliffs that rise to the head of the pass. Here we waited for about an hour and a half, while Almer and Christian Michel cut steps up a steep slope of snow and ice immediately above us, which proved useless, as it led under a dangerous overhanging glacier. We therefore went up a steep slope more to the left, which soon became ice, in which the same men cut steps. From the top of this cliff we wound to the left, and in about an hour passed the last difficulty and walked up a gentle slope of snow to the summit of the pass, which was reached at 11.50 A.M. We descended the Aletsch Glacier to this hotel, arriving at 7.45, while Messrs. Hardy, Stephen, and Morgan wound round the Mönch, and so down to Grindelwald. All the guides behaved admirably, especially the two leaders, Christian Almer and Christian Michel, and the man (name unknown)\* who carried the ladders.

'It would be impossible to make the pass from the south side, as the séracs late in the day would be very dangerous: and at present a ladder is indispensable. The ridge which we crossed appears to be known as the Col de la Jungfrau and as the Mönch Sattel, but to avoid confusion the pass ought to be called the Jungfrau joch.' (By H. B. George.)

Described in one of the most delightful chapters of Leslie Stephen's 'Playground of Europe.'

August 3, 1863. F. W. JACOMB and THOMAS RENNISON.—'From the Wengern Alp by the Jungfrau Joch, being the second time the passage has been made. . . .'

#### THE OBERAARJOCH.

The Oberaarjoch ranks with the Col de St. Théodule and the Col du Géant as one of the oldest of the great glacier passes in the Western Alps, and as one of the very few which are known

\* Peter Rubi, according to a note added in another writing.

to have been crossed in the eighteenth century. Its use in early times seems all the more remarkable if we bear in mind its great height (10,607 feet), and the fact that it does not afford a direct route between two valleys or villages. The following passages are recorded down to the year 1841 :

1. 1789.—The Swiss topographer JOHANN HEINRICH WEISS then engaged in making the first accurate survey of the Bernese Oberland.

2. July 26, 1812.—JOHANN RUDOLF, HIERONYMUS, RUDOLF and GOTTLIEB MEYER and Dr. THILO, with the guides ARNOLD ABBÜHL, CASPAR HUBER, VOLKER and BORTIS.

3. The same party returning to the Grimsel on the following day.

4. August 15, 1812.—RUDOLF MEYER with the same guides.

5. August 23, 1812.—HIERONYMUS and GOTTLIEB MEYER and Dr. THILO (guides unknown).

6. August 18, 1828.—Dr. F. J. HUGI with ARNOLD ABBÜHL, HANS LAUENER, JAKOB and ANDREAS LEUTHOLD, JOHANN MOOR and ARNOLD TÄNNLER.

7. The same party returning to the Grimsel the following day.

8. 1828.—Mr. FRANK WALKER ('The Alps in Nature and History,' p. 228). Mr. Walker's name appears in the 1859 list of members of the Alpine Club, and it is almost needless to recall the fact that he was the father of our twelfth president, the late Mr. Horace Walker

9. 1840. A party of Swiss from Bâle.

10. August 27, 1841.—Principal JAMES DAVID FORBES, Mr. HEATH, Professor AGASSIZ, and MM. DESOR and DE PURY (of Neuchâtel) and DU CHÂTELIER (of Nantes) with the guides JOHANN WÄHREN, JOHANN ABPLANALP, JAKOB LEUTHOLD, MICHEL BANNHOLZER, JOHANN JAUN (of Meiringen), and JOHANN JAUN (of Imhof).

The 1859 edition of Joanne's '*Itinéraire de la Suisse*' (pp. 380–381) contains a detailed account of the '*Passage du Col de l'Oberaar*,' which is described as '*Une très-forte journée de marche. Course difficile*,' and the author adds, '*On peut coucher aux chalets de Moeril ou Maerjelen. Guides recommandés : Franz Imhof, de Lax ; les frères Zeiter, de la Maerjelenalp ; Melchior Bannholzer, de Gutannen ; Caspar et Andreas Abplanalp, de Im-Grund.*'

Murray mentions the Oberaarjoch for the first time in the 1856 edition of his handbook.

'This is one of the most magnificent passes in Switzerland. It is a hard day's work, and the descent of the Viescher glacier is very difficult, but the grandeur of its scenery, in the heart of the Bernese Oberland, will well repay any traveller who may explore it in fine weather.'

And he quotes the following account of a passage by an English traveller in 1854, accompanied by Melchior Anderegg, then at the beginning of his splendid career :

'On the morning of the 27th Aug. 1854, I set out from the Grimsel at 10 min. before 3 o'clock, with Melchior Anderegg of the Grimsel, and Arnold Kehrli as my guides, both of whom I strongly recommend. As far as the foot of the Unteraar glacier the route is the same as that of the Strahleck pass : here it turns along the edge of the Oberaar glacier on its right side, as far as some chalets, where we had to wait for 40 min., till the rising sun dispersed the mists which lay upon the glacier. At 6 o'clock we took to the ice ; it is but little crevassed, and resembles much the Unteraar glacier, but it rises with a much more rapid slope. Towards the summit of the pass the ice is covered with snow ; we tied ourselves together with a rope, and some care was necessary to avoid the concealed crevasses. We reached the summit of the pass at 9 o'clock, and soon commenced the descent, which, at first, is down snow slopes, then upon the glacier, over and among the enormous crevasses for nearly two hours. Having passed at the foot of the glacier which descends between the Rothorn and the Viescherhörner, we left the ice for a while, and descended by the foot of the latter mountain ; afterwards we sometimes followed the glacier (which is always much crevassed), sometimes its moraine or the mountain on its right, till at last, by a very steep descent Viesch was reached at 50 min. past 3 P.M. Including stoppages of 1½ hours, this pass took 13 hours, of which 6 were on the ice. R. F.' [probably Robert Fowler, *v. supra* and 'A.J.' xxxii. 99 (note)].

August 30, 1857. E. BRADSHAW SMITH, ROBERT WALTERS and T. W. HINCHLIFF.—'To the Grimsel by the Oberaarjoch.'

August 4, 1858. E. S. KENNEDY, F. P. ROE, J. F. HARDY, L. STEPHEN, THOS. W. HINCHLIFF and JAMES NOLAN.—'En route from Grimsel to Zermatt.'

August 30, 1858. JOHN ORMSBY and WM. BRUCE, London.—'From Grimsel to Zermatt.'

July 12-16, 1860. EDWARD N. BUXTON, A. C. and GURNEY LATHAM.—'From Grimsel by Oberaarjoch.'

September 15, 1860. J. KENT STONE, Boston, U.S.A., and JEREMIAH WHIPPLE, Providence, U.S.A.—'From the Grimsel by the Oberaarjoch. Ascended the Oberaarhorn.'

July 31, 1861. Rev. J. E. MILLARD and F. M. MILLARD, Magd. Coll., Oxford.—'Arrived from the Grimsel by the Oberaarjoch pass.'

August 6, 1861. C. H. PILKINGTON and R. M. STEPHENSON.—'From the Grimsel by the Oberaarjoch.'

July 13, 1862. H. B. GEORGE and A. W. MOORE.—'From Zermatt to the Grimsel by the Oberaarjoch.'

August 16, 1862. J. J. HORNBY and T. H. PHILPOTT.—'From the Grimsel by the Oberaarjoch.'