

tants of those parts. In 1763 he found excuses for not accompanying his friend John Baker Holroyd on his tour of Switzerland. It is therefore interesting to find Sainte-Beuve²¹ writing that 'Le sentiment de la nature champêtre n'est pas étranger à Gibbon.' It is true that he delighted in the view from his house : 'open on the south to a beautiful and boundless [?] horizon. A garden of four acres had been laid out by the taste of Mr. Deyverdun ; from the garden a rich scenery of meadows and vineyards descends to the Lemane lake, and the prospect far beyond the lake is crowned by the stupendous mountains of Savoy.' And the description of the scene when he had just finished writing the *Decline and Fall*, late at night on June 27, 1787, is a masterpiece of charm : 'The air was temperate, the sky was serene, the silver orb of the moon was reflected from the waters, and all Nature was silent.'

But on reading Sainte-Beuve a little further, it becomes clear that he had placed an unerring finger on the nature of Gibbon's powers of appreciation : 'dans tous ces passages, c'est encore le studieux chez Gibbon qui goûte la nature, et, soit qu'il parle en son nom, soit qu'il se souvienne de son digne précepteur, c'est toujours entre une lecture et une autre, et ayant, pour ainsi dire, le livre entr'ouvert sur sa table, qu'il aime à donner accès à la distraction champêtre, à s'accorder les perspectives naturelles, et à en savourer le sentiment tout à fait sobre, sincère pourtant chez lui et très-doux.'

With this judgment we can only agree, for the two books, *Pindar* and *Virgil*, are open before us, and Mont Blanc serves as a standard of height with which to measure that of Etna.

THE LIVRET DE GUIDE OF JOSEPH VIANIN

By D. F. O. DANGAR

TWO pages from the *Livret de Guide* of Joseph Vianin (or Viennin) of Ayer have been sent to the Alpine Club by Monsieur Charles Gos. The first consists of copies of three of the early entries in Vianin's book, and the other contains four original entries, including that of Lord Francis Douglas, written after the second ascent of the Obergabelhorn.

Monsieur Gos informs me that he has ascertained that Joseph Baptiste Isidore Vianin was born on November 12, 1821, and died on February 27, 1896.

Vianin must have had a fair acquaintance with the peaks and passes of his own valley, and took part in several new expeditions. He was a member of the party which made the first recorded crossing of the Col Durand in 1859 (*A. J.* 54. 419) and by 1863 he was sufficiently well known to be mentioned in Murray's *Handbook to Switzerland*,

²¹ C.-A. Sainte-Beuve : *Causeries du Lundi*, Paris, 1854, vol. 8, page 356.

10th edition, 1863, p. 352. 'A good guide named Viennin lives there' (Zinal).

In addition to the Col Durand, he took part in the following new expeditions :

1862. Lo Besso, lower peak, with J-B. Epiney.

July 20, 1863. Lo Besso, higher peak with J. J. Weilenmann (*Studer*, ii. 542).

August 24, 1863. Les Diablons with Messrs. Sedley Taylor and Whatman, and Franz Andermatten (*A. J.* 1. 201).

July 27, 1864. Col de la Dent Blanche with Messrs. Hornby and Philpott and Christian Lauener. At that time this pass between the Dent Blanche and the Grand Cornier was known as the Col du Grand Cornier (*A. J.* 1. 431).

July 28, 1864. Col de Moiry and Col de la Lex (or Col du Pigne) with the same party (*A. J.* 1. 432).

July 30, 1864. Brunegg Joch with the same party (*A. J.* 1. 432).

July 7, 1865. Obergabelhorn, first ascent from Zinal (second ascent of the mountain) with Lord Francis Douglas and Peter Taugwalder (*A. J.* 2. 222).

The first entry from the pages of the *Livret de Guide*, dated August 8, 1862, describes how W. J. Ball and his brother were taken over the Triftjoch and found Vianin a 'cheerful, active, and efficient guide.' This is not an original entry, possibly 'Ball' should read 'Bull,' (W. J. Bull, A. C. 1824-1890).

After an entry by Ralph Milbanke, Oxney Field, Darlington, also describing a passage of the Triftjoch, we find over the date July 25, 1864, 'C. S. Parker and J. S. Burra (Oxford). Much pleased with our guide who conducted us over the Plentoren (*sic*) in a snow storm. He also was very obliging in giving us information about the Trift which we wished to try without a guide.

N.B.—He has spent much labour in improving the path over the Trift.'

The brothers Parker crossed the Triftjoch without guides in July 1865 (*A. J.* 30. 159-161).

The next entry is signed by 'Francis Douglas, A. C.': 'Joseph Viennin accompanied me as second guide in the most laborious expedition I ever undertook. We ascended the *Gabelhorn* from Zinal and descended to Zermatt. He would do for a leader in expeditions with which he was acquainted and makes an *excellent* second guide under the direction of a good guide in a difficult expedition like the one above mentioned.' (See illustration).

The first ascent of the Obergabelhorn had been made from Zermatt the previous day by Messrs. A. W. Moore and Horace Walker with Jakob Anderegg.

Vianin saved his party on the summit when the cornice broke, carrying with it Douglas and Taugwalder.

Herr R. F. von Borcke of Berlin signs the next entry, recording a passage of the Triftjoch, on July 22, 1865.

Joseph Vianin accompanied me
as second ^{guide} in the most laborious
expedition I ever undertook,
we ascended the Gabelhorn
from Zinal & descended to
Zermatt. He would do for
a leader in expeditions with
which he was acquainted
and makes an excellent
second under the direction
of a good guide in ^a difficult
expedition like the one above
mentioned

Francis Douglas A.C.

The same year, on August 6, Vianin accompanied Messrs. H. B. George and Alex. Mortimer over the Triftjoch and gave 'full satisfaction. His local knowledge is most minute and accurate.'

The last entry is dated August 16, 1865, over the names of James Riddell and A. J. Butler. 'Joseph Viennin accompanied us over the Col du Grand Cornier (between the Dent Blanche and Grand Cornier) as leading guide, and also from the Arolla auberge to Zermatt by a passage leading between the Mont Brulé and the Dent Berthol, and then eastwards to the Zmutt Glacier. He is attentive and hard working as a guide and was fully competent for his work with us, both on rocks and on ice.'

A LONG DAY ON PIZ PALÜ

BY C. G. WYLIE

I'M not very sure what goes for a long day in the Alps in the best circles—but, personally, I hold that if one has made a respectable start at 2 or 3 in the morning, it's carrying things too far to have to resort to the candle at the other end of the day. I don't know what it was that led us—most misguidedly I used to think as the sun dipped to the horizon—to practise the theory that one should always come off a mountain by a different route to that by which one climbed it. Perhaps it was excessive zeal, perhaps a sense of seasons wasted in waiting, or perhaps merely a determination to get our limited money's worth after I had lost my wallet, 300 francs, and my return ticket on the Biancograt. Whatever it was, we shall both remember 1947 as a season of cloudless weather, traverses and long days. Though we only returned after dark once, I seem to remember our average timing over about eight traverses as being suspiciously near 14 hours. However, this used to present us with an unassailable excuse for an off day on the morrow, and a blissful sleep right round the clock. This, I think, not zeal, was the real spur.

The E. peak of Piz Palü by the rib on the N. face was the first and longest of a season of long and memorable climbs. It was 11 years since J. O. M. Roberts' last Alpine season, and 8 since mine. In the interval we had climbed only in the Himalayas, and although Roberts had several expeditions to his credit, he was as anxious as I to improve technique. We had spent three or four days on training walks and in practising rock work and step cutting. We arrived at the Boval Hut simultaneously with one of the few snow storms of the season; this cut out climbing next day, which we spent studying the guide book. We chose Palü; I had done the ordinary traverse in 1938, so we considered the ribs on the N. face. The guide-book says the E. rib was the easiest, 'empfehlenswert,' and 'ungefährlich,' and gave 3-4 hours up the rib itself. This seemed to be just what we were looking for. There were practically no details; one gendarme was mentioned which