Itinerary of a Tour in the Caucasus, made by Messrs. D. W. Freshfield, A. W. Moore, and C. C. Tucker, with François Devouassoud, of Chamouni, and Baqua Pipia, a Mingrelian servant.

1868	Route	Observations
June 26 –28	Post road from Tiflis to the station of Kazbek.	
June 29	Reconnaissance of Kazbek. Ascent of a snow peak to the south-east of the mountain; 5 hours up; height 10,500′.	
June 30	Start for the ascent of Kazbek. 6 hours up to the last available rocks, on the left bank of the glacier on the south side of the peak, where we pitch our tent (11,150′).	Easy ascent by the glen in front of the post-station.
July 1	Ascent of Kazbek (16,546′). Up the glacier to a slight depression between the summit and a second peak to the west; thence direct to the top (9¼ hours). Descent from the col on the north side towards the Dariel road, and bivouac (7½ hours from the summit) with the shepherds in a glen which opens into the main valley of the Terek, about 8 versts from Kazbek station.	No difficulty from the tent up to a height of 14,800 ft.; above, as far as the col (16,200′) a steep and dangerous ice-wall, costing 4 hours' work; thence to the top, easy. Descent on the north side easy throughout, but long and circuitous.
July 2	Return to Kazbek station (3½ hours).	
July 3	Post road to Kobi station (2¼ hours' drive). On foot to Abano in the upper valley of the Terek (3¼ hours).	
July 4	To Resch (3¾ hours). Pass (10,700′) to Zacca in Dwalyth (5 hours); down the valley to Kesat Kan (2¼ hours).	At Zacca, a regular row with our Resch porters, who stole one of our cloaks, and resisted with violence our efforts to regain it. The Zacca people unfriendly.
July 5	Down the valley, by a rugged and difficult route to Dalla Kar, and up the western branch	

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1868	Route	Observations
July 5	of the upper valley of the Ardon to Teeb, on the Mameson road (9½ hours).	
July 6	Over the Mameson pass (9,500′) to Gurshivi in the valley of the Riom (9 hours).	Much snow on both sides of the pass; road, a broad horse-path, in bad order, but has since been improved. People at Gurshivi very civil.
July 7	At Gurshivi. Reconnaissance of Adaï Khokh (15,244′). Bad weather.	
July 8	Down the valley to Glola (4 hours).	
July 9	To Chiora in the western branch of the valley of the Riom (4 hours).	
July 10	Glacier pass to the valley of the Uruch. Route of the Gurdzi-evske pass to the point where, leaving the glacier, it turns sharp to the left up steep snow slopes. Thence ascend to head of the glacier to a very conspicuous col, 11,200′ (10¼ hours). Descent on the north side by a snow couloir of excessive steepness to the small glacier traversed by the known route of the Gurdzi-evske pass. Bivouac in the forest at the point where the glen occupied by this glacier opens upon the great glacier at the head of the southern branch of the Uruch valley (3½ hours from col).	We made this pass by chance, when looking for the Gurdzi-evske pass, which is practicable for sheep.
July 11	Difficult glacier pass to the valley of the Riom. Follow up the great glacier at the head of the Uruch valley; 6 hours in a bad ice-fall, then 3 hours over snow-fields to crest of the chain, at a point south-east of Tau Bùrdisùla, and looking down into a glen leading straight to Glola, 12,200′ (12¼ hours from bivouac). The	We propose to call this pass 'Karagam Pass,' from the name of the torrent which flows from the great glacier on the north side.

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1868	Route	Observations
July 11	descent into this glen seeming too difficult, we made a détour to the left, and found a fairly easy way down into the next glen to the east, where we bivouacked (4¼ hours from the col).	
July 12	Down to Glola (2½ hours). Up western branch of the valley to Gebi (4 hours).	
July 13	At Gebi. Bad weather.	
July 14	With ten porters to the shepherds' hut at the head of the western branch of the Riom valley (8¼ hours).	Very bad weather, and way difficult, usual path being impracticable, owing to destruction of bridges.
July 15	Pass of the Garibolo Höhe (9,600′) to the valley of the Tzenes Khali. Bivouac at the point where the lateral torrent by which we descended joins the main stream.	
July 16	Pass (8,400′) to the branch of the Tzenes Khali valley watered by the Zeska torrent. Down it to its junction with the torrent of Koreeldatsch. Bivouac in the forest (10½ hrs.).	Very bad weather, and difficult route through dense swamps and forests.
July 17	To Gibiani at the head of the valley of the Ingour (8½ hours), following up the Koreeldatsch, and crossing the mountains to the north-west, by a good path over luxuriant Alps, bare of snow even at the top of the pass. Height, 8,750′.	
July 18	At Gibiani.	At Gibiani the people were very hostile. Our things were stolen, and then sold to us again. We only got away on the 19th, after a violent row, revolvers in hand, and it was fear of our firearms alone which prevented our being plundered. The
July 19	Down the valley to Davba (3½ hours). Then up a lateral glen to the north-east and bivouac not far from the glacier at its head (2¾ hours).	
July 20	Pass (9,000′) to Adisch (4½ hours); down the Ingour valley to Xuni (5½ hours).	
July 21	Down the valley to Latal (9½ hours).	

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1868	Route	Observations
July 22	Down the valley to Pari (9 hours).	walk down the valley of the Ingour was a sereis of disputes with the man who led our baggage-horse, and who did all in his power to delay us, and expose us to the violence and extortion of his compatriots.
July 23	At Pari.	At Pari, for the first time since leaving Kazbek, we met Russian officials in the shape of ten Cossacks, who were most civil.
July 24	With eight porters, to a bivouac in the valley of the Nakra, which falls into the Ingour some way below Pari (10 hrs.)	
July 25	Ascent of the Nakra valley to the head of its eastern branch. The valley runs north for a long way, then turns sharp to the east, and then splits into two branches running respectively north and south, and filled with small glaciers. We bivouacked at the junction of these two branches (8 hours).	All this country is very imperfectly represented on the great Russian map.
July 26	Pass to the valley of the Baksan (10,800′). Up the northern branch of the valley (2 hours), then by steep grass and snow slopes in a north-eastern direction to the col (2¼ hours). Descent by a small snow-covered glacier and the glen below it to the main valley of Baksan (2¾ hours). Down the valley to a chalet (2 hours).	In spite of its height, this pass is practicable for cattle. The inhabitants of Sueneth are in the habit of crossing over to Baksan and carrying off the cattle. We met a party returning with eleven oxen thus obtained.
July 27	Down the valley to the village of Uruspieh (5 hours).	Prince Ismail of Uruspieh and his brothers received us with great hospitality. The people of the Baksan valley are Mahometans.
July 28	At Uruspieh.	

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1868	Route	Observations
July 29	Start for the ascent of Elbruz, with five porters. Up the valley of Baksan to a little above its junction with the glen, through which passes the route to the Nakra valley. Thence, up a glen to the north-west, closed by a glacier descending from Elbruz, and bivouac on the alp near the foot of the glacier, 8,000′ (9 hrs.).	
July 30	Up the glen, past the end of the glacier, and by steep slopes on its right bank to a point on the rocks on that side, almost on a level with the great snow plateau to the south-east of the mountain, where we pitched the tent in a well-sheltered place, 11,950 ft. (4½ hours).	
July 31	Leave the tent at 2.10 A.M., cross the great plateau, and up slopes beyond, to the base of the final peak (5¼ hours). Shaly rocks to the top (2¾ hours), which was reached at 10.40 A.M. Descent by the same route to the alp below the glacier (6 hrs.). Height, 18,526 ft.	Intense cold made the ascent toilsome, but we met with no serious obstacle. The volcanic origin of the mountain is obvious. The top is a three-sided crater, filled with snow; on the ridge which surrounds it are three points of about equal height, and at some distance from each other. We visited all three, two being free from snow, and on the point first reached, which seemed to be actually the highest, built a small stone man. Two of our porters, Djapojef Djatchi and Sotaef Achia, reached the top with us.
July 31		
Aug. 1	Return to Uruspieh (7 hours).	
Aug. 2	At Uruspieh.	
Aug. 3	On horseback down the valley of Baksan to Atashkutan (12½ h.).	

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1868	Route	Observations
Aug. 4	To Tzonitskï in a bullock-cart (9½ hours). To Pätigorsk in a char (3 hours).	
Aug. 5–8	At Pätigorsk.	
Aug. 9, 10	Post-road to Naltschik.	
Aug. 11, 12	At Naltschik.	
Aug. 13	Start for the valley of the Tscherek. Bivouac in the forest (11 hours' ride), some distance above the junction of the two principal branches of the valley, leading respectively to Balkar and Bezeengi.	
Aug. 14	Up the valley of Balkar as far as the village of Mukol (4¼ hours).	The Chief of Mukol received us with great hospitality. There, as at Uruspieh, the contrast between the industry and courtesy of the Mahometan population, and the idleness and ruffianism of the Christian tribes on the south side of the chain, was very great.
Aug. 15	At Mukol.	
Aug. 16	Up the valley of Balkar to the point where it forks east and west, marked 'Karaul' on the Russian map (7 hours).	
Aug. 17	Ascend the slopes (3 hours) behind 'Karaul,' to examine the Kotschtan Tau (17,096′) and Dych Tau (16,925′).	The eastern branch of the valley of Balkar, and its lateral glens, are entirely filled with a great glacier, the end of which is about an hour's walk only above 'Karaul.' The country is very inexactly laid down on the Russian map.
Aug. 18	Over the Stuli-veesk Pass (10,500′?), to the first châlets in the valley of the Uruch (10 hours).	This pass is high, but baggage horses can be got over it. The view of the Kotschtan Tau

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1868	Route	Observations
Aug. 18		group is very fine. Neither Dych Tau nor Kotschtan Tau seemed to us accessible from the direction of Balkar. It is possible that from the side of Bezeengi one or the other may be practicable.
Aug. 19	Down the valley of the Uruch to Zadelesk (11 hours' ride).	
Aug. 20	To Novo-Christianski by the village of Tuga-Nova (11 hours' ride).	On the afternoons of the 19th and 20th, heavy rain fell, and the forest above Tuga-Nova was almost impassable with mud. We were much helped by a Cossack, sent up to meet us at the head of the Uruch Valley by General Lorismèlekov. The people of Novo-Christianski were most inhospitable.
Aug. 21	To Ardonsk (2¾ hrs.' ride). Post-road to Vladikavkaz (5 hours).	
Aug. 22, 23	At Vladikavkaz, the Dariel road being broken up by floods.	
Aug. 24–26	Post-road to Tiflis.	

N.B.—The heights in most cases are only approximate.

In reference to the above expedition, the following letter has been addressed to the Editor of the Alpine Journal:—

Dear Sir,—The following paragraph having appeared in the 'Pall Mall Gazette' of September 12, I at once pointed out its inaccuracy in a letter to the editor, which, however, he did not insert—

'Referring to the late ascent by three Englishmen of the Elbrus and Kazbek mountains in the Caucasus, a German paper remarks that it is a mistake to suppose these mountains were then ascended for the first time. In 1829 Adolf Kupffer, the mineralogist; K. A. Meyer, the botanist; and other philosophers, were sent on a scientific mission into the Caucasus by the Academy of Sciences at St. Petersburg, and ascended Elbrus with some Circassian guides. The history of this expedition is given in Kupffer's "Voyage dans les Environs du Mont Elbrouz dans le Caucase, entrepris par ordre de sa Majesté l'Empereur

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en 1829. Rapport fait à l'Acad. Imp. des Sciences de St.-Pétersbourg," St. Pet., 4to, 1830; and also in Klaproth's "Nouveau Journal Asiatique" for January, 1831, No. 37. As for Kazbek, it was ascended by the geographer Moritz Wagner, brother of Rudolph Wagner, about the year 1844.'

It is, I think, due to Messrs. Freshfield, Moore, and Tucker, that statements of this nature, implying a doubt of their accuracy as well as denying their claims to priority, should be exposed. Referring your readers for full particulars to the article by Mr. H. B. George, in the second volume of the Alpine Journal, p. 170, which contains a full translation of that part of M. Kupffer's volume which relates to the attempt on Elbruz, made by himself and his companions, I may, perhaps, be allowed, for the benefit of those who do not happen to possess the volume in question, to state as briefly as possible the real facts of the case.

M. Kupffer was one of several *savants* who accompanied General Emanuel in a politico-geographical progress through some of the northern valleys of the Caucasus, in the course of which, having reached the head waters of the Malka (8,000 ft. above the sea), the party, with the exception of the General who remained below, started at 10 A.M. on the morning of the 21st July, 1829, and at 4 P.M. attained the edge of the snow, at a point the height of which many assumed to be not far from 11,000 ft. Here they encamped for the night, and at 3 the next morning started with some native (Circassian) mountaineers and a few Cossacks. At first all went smoothly, but as the steepness of the slopes and the heat of the sun increased, their progress became more laborious, until at a point which was determined to be 14,000 French (14,921 English) ft. above the sea—and therefore *really* 3,600 English ft., though estimated by them to be only 1,400 French (1,492 English) ft., below the summit—M. Kupffer and three of his companions fairly knocked up. In spite of this, with strange looseness of expression, he proceeds to add:—'However, this first attempt had succeeded beyond our hopes. On entering the Caucasus we had believed Elbruz inaccessible, and in a fortnight *we were on its summit!*' Meanwhile, M. Lenz, who, accompanied by two Circassians and a Cossack, had preceded his friends, got as far as the top of a ridge of rocks in the direction of the summit by 1 P.M. and *then turned back*, as time ran short and the snow was soft.

It appears, however, that the General, seated before his tent in the valley, had been watching the proceedings of the party through a telescope, and had noticed the halt of one group at the foot of the rocks and the progress of the other up them, when, 'suddenly, he observed a single man far in advance, who had already almost crossed the tract of snow between the top of the rocks and the summit of Elbruz. The man was seen to approach the scarped rock which forms the actual summit, walk round it, disappear for a moment against the dark-coloured rock, and *then vanish behind the mists which again filled the valley, cutting off all view of Elbruz.* This took place at 11 A.M.: the General could no longer doubt that one of us had reached the summit; and he could see, by the colour of the dress, that it was a Circassian, but the distance was too great for his features to be distinguished.

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Killar, as the Circassian was named, had known how to profit by the morning's frost. He had crossed the snow long before us, and when M. Lenz reached his highest point, Killar was already on his return from the summit.' Whether Killar really did or did not attain the highest point, and whether the latter was not, indeed, hidden by the 'mists,' which are a weak feature in the evidence, he, at any rate, received the promised reward of 400 roubles, and appears to have enjoyed locally the reputation of having succeeded. In any case, however, the recent ascent by our countrymen and F. Devouassoud is the first that has been effected by any but a native mountaineer.

The so-called 'ascent' of Kazbek by Herr Moritz Wagner in 1844, of which no one had heard at Tiflis, turns out, on investigation, to be still more utterly the result of the imagination of the writer in 'a German newspaper.' I had good ground for refusing to believe that, if it had taken place, it could have been unknown to Herr Wagner's countryman Dr. Radde, as well as to General Chodzko and other first-rate authorities at Tiflis, which Mr. Freshfield and his companions found to be the case; and my friend Mr. F. E. Blackstone, having kindly examined for me at the British Museum Herr Wagner's own narrative of his travels in the Caucasus ('Der Kaukasus in den Jahren 1843 bis 1846,' von M. Wagner. Leipzig: Arndtsche Buchhandlung. 1850), has set the matter finally at rest. He informs me that, in the volume in question, there is not the least foundation for the statement that he ascended Kazbek. Herr Wagner writes:—'During the absence of my travelling companions I visited the nearest environs of Kazbek, and ascended this famous mountain *to the lower limit of eternal snow* (*bis an die untere Grenze des ewigen Schnees*).' The walk to the point selected by our countrymen for their bivouac is well described, and the narrative then proceeds:—'There, from a point nearly 11,000 ft. in height, an unimpeded view was obtained over the whole glacier region, &c.,' with which that from the hut on the Aar glacier is compared. It is like the case of the French tourist who had 'fait l'ascension du Mont Blanc,' but, upon being cross-examined, naïvely admitted that he had been 'pas *tout à fait* sur la cime, mais jusqu'au Montanvert.' I am, dear sir, yours very faithfully, F. F. TUCKETT.

THE ALPINE REGIONS.*

It is but a few weeks since the genuine lover of the Alps had an opportunity of being thoroughly disgusted by reading in the 'Times' an account of certain proceedings in the Valais on the occasion of extending the new railway from Sion to Sierre. A party of the most preposterous Paris cockneys, with a number of representatives of the press, went to Sierre to celebrate the event, and would have ascended the Gemmi if they had not had the misfortune to make their guides (as they were pleased to call the mule-drivers) so drunk that very few could be induced to go beyond Leukerbad. In the speeches

* *The Alpine Regions of Switzerland and the Neighbouring Countries.* By T. G. Bonney, M.A., F.G.S., &c., Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

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