never to be forgotten, requires the greatest powers of colour and imagination. This sunrise fails to impress us with sufficient awe, it is such an affair as might be seen on the lower hills; in a small 'Sunset from the Aiguille du Goûté,' M. Loppé has been more entirely successful.

'Mont Blanc from the Breithorn,' and 'Mont Blanc from the Col du Sonadon,' are both reproductions of the same effect. The cold upper glacier sweeps down from our feet, and carries on the eye to an horizon glowing in warm sunrise colour. In both pictures the difficulty of giving sufficient distinctness of detail, and at the same time conveying a sense of the distance of the far-off chain, has been successfully conquered. A third class of landscapes—views of the lower Alps in their winter robes—charms us less. Partly, perhaps, because in the lowlands snow always comes as an intruder, reversing all the relations of light and shade we are accustomed to look upon. Amongst these we must, however, stop to point out 'The Mont Salève, near Geneva,' a charming little sketch of frosty air and sunshine.

We now hasten, in conclusion, to offer our hearty thanks to M. Loppé for the pleasure he has given us. We hope that the appreciation his pictures have met with may induce him often again to brighten the dull gloom of our London springs with the pure radiance of his midsummer snows.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

WESTERN ALPS.

DAUPHINÉ. VARIATION ON THE COL DES CAVALES, *June* 10.—The Rev. C. Taylor, Thomas Cox, W. M. and R. Pendlebury, and F. Gardiner, with Hans and Peter Baumann, Peter Knübel, and J. M. Lochmatter, crossed the dividing ridge from the upper part of the Glacier des Étançons to a field of névé occupying the north-western angle of the Vallon des Cavales, but cut off from the main part of the glacier by a wall of rocks. After descending these the way from the Col des Cavales was joined. Height of the ridge where crossed estimated at about 12,000 ft. 14¾ hrs., including all halts, from La Bérarde to La Grave.

PEYROU D'AMANT, *June* 13.—Height 2,862 mètres (9,390 ft.). The same party ascended the Peyrou d'Amant by the ridge running out towards La Grave, and descended over the glaciers from the Râteau and Meije. The summit gives an excellent view of those two mountains and their snow-fields. The entire excursion occupied 5¾ hrs.

RÂTEAU, *June* 14.—Height 3,754 mètres (12,316 ft.). The same party left La Grave at 4 A.M., and proceeded at first as if bound for the Brèche de la Meije, but bending to the right as soon as they had passed the ice-fall, gained the crest connecting the Meije and Râteau at a considerable elevation above the Brèche. They had climbed some distance along this ridge when the guides, dreading the weather and the state of the snow, urged a retreat. It would have been quite possible to

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reach the summit; but not, under the circumstances, without the loss of so much time as to render highly improbable any prospect of getting off the snow, which was in a most wretched condition, before nightfall.

Col de la Casse Déserte, or Brèche Charrière, *June* 16.—The same party propose the name of Brèche Charrière for a gap lying immediately to the South of the Tête Charrière (see p. 292). It is a deep cleft bounded by almost perpendicular walls, and so narrow that two men would have difficulty in passing through it abreast. Estimated elevation: 10,700 to 10,800 ft. (?) The approach on the eastern side is by a very steep and narrow snow couloir. The above party having passed the preceding night at some châlets belonging to an abandoned mine in the upper valley of the Romanche, started at 2.15, and reached the top of the pass at 7.15 A.M. In descending they made in almost a straight line for La Bérarde until brought to a stand by the steep rocks overlooking the Vallon de Bonnepierre. Some difficulty, which might have been avoided by keeping more to the right, was encountered in getting down on to the moraine of the glacier. La Bérarde was reached at 10.30 A.M. The scenery on the eastern side of the pass is extremely fine.

Sommet de Roche-Faurio, *June* 21.—Height 3,716 mètres (12,192 ft.). The same party left their bivouac on the moraine of the Glacier de Bonnepierre at 2.45 A.M., and commenced the ascent by a couloir to the left of that rising to the Col des Écrins; but, deserting the snow very soon for the rocks on the left, crossed these, and other snow couloirs by which they were seamed, diagonally in the direction of the summit. Having gained the ridge half way to the Col des Écrins, they followed it to the top. Time of arrival, 9 A.M. The rocks were partially covered with ice, steep and rotten. On leaving the summit they kept for a short distance along the ridge, then bore to the left, and descending by easy slopes of soft snow on to the Glacier de l'Encula, arrived at the Châlets d'Ailefroide at 2.45 P.M. This mountain is well worth ascending if for nothing else than the glorious view of the Écrins.

Sommet des Rouies, *June* 19.—Height 3,634 mètres (11,923 ft.).—The Rev. C. Taylor, Thomas Cox, W. M. Pendlebury and F. Gardiner, with Hans Baumann, Peter Knübel and J. M. Lochmatter, ascended the Sommet des Rouies from the Glacier du Chardon. They left La Bérarde at 3.15 A.M., reached the top at 12.15, commenced the descent at 1, and arrived in La Bérarde at 4 P.M. The disproportionate time employed in the ascent was due to a mistake. One of the prominences on the ridge joining the Montagnes de Clôchatel to the Sommet des Rouies was taken by mistake for the summit of the latter mountain itself. After gaining this point, the real top was attained by way of the connecting ridge, but not without a considerable descent. The snow was very bad throughout the day.

La Grande Aiguille, *June* 20.—Height 3,422 mètres (11,227 ft.).—Thos. Cox, W. M. and R. Pendlebury, with Peter Baumann and J. M. Lochmatter, ascended this peak in 6 hrs., and returned to La Bérarde in 5. Standing in the centre it commands a most noble view of the entire circuit of the high Alps of Dauphiné. From an erroneous im-

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pression as to the height of the mountain the start was not made until 6 o'clock, and the steep rocks were found laden with enormous masses of the most miserable snow conceivable, a touch being sufficient to send down an avalanche. Under more favourable circumstances the ascent might possibly not require so much time.

In addition to the above excursion, all the travellers and guides named climbed the central peak of the Meije, their ascent being, as they understand, the second.

Aiguille d'Arve (more than 11,000 ft.), *July* 3.—Miss Brevoort and Mr. W.A. B. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and three Grindelwald porters, left the Châlets of La Motte d'en haut, above St. Jean d'Arve, at 4.30 a.m., and reached the Col des Aiguilles d'Arve by the ordinary route. The central Aiguille (apparently the highest of the three) seemed impracticable on that side; the party, therefore, in about 1½ hr. from the Col gained the southern pinnacle of the northernmost and lowest Aiguille, the northern pinnacle appearing impossible. There were no traces of any previous ascent. The view was extremely fine, including most of the giants of the Dauphiné and Mont Blanc ranges. The return to the Col by the same route occupied 1 hr., and the châlets were easily regained in 2⅓ hrs. more.

Sommet des Rouies (11,923 ft.), *July* 9.—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and Peter (son of Christian) Michel, effected the second ascent of this peak from the Glacier du Chardon. The view was very fine, some snowy ranges to the south in the extreme distance perhaps belonging to the Maritime Alps. It was seen that the Aiguille d'Olan, which the French map credits with a height of 3,883 mètres, is really much lower than the Pic d'Olan, which appears to be about the same height as the Rouies. The party, after descending the final cone, kept up to the left, skirted the base of some rocks, and without difficulty reached the col at the head of the Glacier du Vallon, overlooking a valley, which opens out at Les Étages. The descent over very steep rocks, raked by avalanches, looked very formidable, and may be impossible; at any rate, the attempt was judged to be useless, and the party returned to La Bérarde by the same route.

Râteau (12,369 ft.), *July* 11.—The whole party started at 3.40 a.m. from a bivouac on the eastern side of the Vallon des Étançons to make the first ascent of this peak. Crossing the route of the Brèche de la Meije, just below the Glacier des Étançons, they climbed a range of rocks, seamed by waterfalls, and, mounting to the left, gained the edge of the basin, under the great snow corniche, so conspicuous from that side. Hurrying across this for fear of avalanches, they ascended a short snow slope, which led them at 8.20 to the great southern snow arête. Mounting along this through very deep snow, they reached the final rocks, and after a short but very difficult passage along the knife-like ridge, gained the highest point at 10.40. The view was very fine, La Grave was quite distinguishable, and the western pinnacle of the Meije came out as a veritable needle of rock, quite unrivalled in the Alps. After building a stone-man and leaving a flag (both afterwards seen from La Grave), the party descended to the great basin, and thence direct to the level of the valley by a steep couloir of moraine-stained

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snow to the right of the morning's route. La Bérarde was regained the same evening.

Crête du Glacier Blanc (Pic Signalé of E. M. F., 12,008 ft.), *July* 17.—Mr. Coolidge, with Almer and Christian Roth, left the Châlets de l'Alpe above Villard d'Arêne at 3.25 A.M. to make the first ascent of this peak. Following the route of the Col du Glacier Blanc to the Glacier d'Arsine, they kept to the left, and reached the base of the peak by a succession of moraines at 5.10. Then keeping to the left of a patch of rocks dividing the glacier which flows down between the two arêtes, they gained a vast plateau, and turning to the right gained the westernmost arête at 7.10, and halted ½ an hr. for breakfast. Then creeping round a pinnacle of rock, they again struck the arête, and easily gained the beautiful snow peak so well seen from below at 8.55. Here it was seen that two rocky points beyond were higher (these are all well marked in the French map and figured by Mr. Bonney in Plate V. (II.) of his valuable 'Sketches in the High Alps of Dauphiné'). The nearest was gained in 10 min., but to reach the other, by far the most formidable in appearance, the party had to gain the ridge overlooking the Glacier du Casset, and attained the summit by steep broken rocks in 35 min. from No. 2. The view was marvellous; including all the Dauphiné giants, with Mont Blanc, the Dom, Matterhorn (?), Monte Rosa, Weisshorn, Dent Blanche, &c.; on one side was Monestier and Villard d'Arêne, on the other a village in the Vallouise, perhaps Puy St. Vincent. After building stone-men on the three points, the party in 3 hrs. from the snow peak rejoined the others at l'Alp.

The whole party bivouacked that night at the junction of the valleys descending from the Glaciers des Cavales and de la Platte des Agneaux. The next day they went up the Glacier de la Casse Déserte, turned up to the right, and gained a plateau under the Grande Ruine; crossing a ridge to the right they gained another branch of the glacier, and higher up reached a notch overlooking the Glacier des Cavales. Here the party was unavoidably compelled to spend the night in the tent pitched on the snow, at a height of about 11,500 ft. The final ridge of the Grande Ruine, the object aimed at, was full in view.

La Grande Ruine (12,316 ft.) and Col de la Casse Déserte (11,516 ft.), *July* 19.—The whole party left the tent at 8.20 A.M., the weather being still very doubtful, and mounted by easy snow slopes to the foot of the final arête of the Grande Ruine, ascending by which, without the slightest difficulty to their great surprise, they reached the highest point at 9.10. The view was rather cloudy, but cleared off enough to allow a sight of the neighbouring peaks, and to satisfy all doubts as to having attained the true summit. The return to the tent was effected by the same route. The party then retraced their steps to the plateau under the Grande Ruine, and the same day reached La Bérarde by a col between the Grande Ruine and Tête de Charrière, of which the summit was reached from the La Grave side by Mr. Bonney's party, which named it Col de la Casse Déserte. Not knowing that Mr. Gardiner's party in June had made the first complete passage, and named the pass 'Brèche de la Charrière,' they gave it the name of 'Col de la Grande Ruine.'

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The pass has thus three names, all of which are equally appropriate; but the precedence should, perhaps, be yielded to Mr. Bonney's nomenclature.*

Mont Giouberny (about 11,000 ft.), *July* 21.—The whole party left La Bérarde at 4.30 A.M., and proceeded up the Vallon de la Pilatte, some way beyond the stream flowing down from the Col de la Tempe, Mr. Coolidge, with Almer and Peter Blauer, left the others, and following the route of the Col du Selé, at 8 reached the base of the Mont Giouberny, the peak crowning the buttress which divides the two branches of the glacier descending from the Crête des Bœufs Rouges and the Col de Sais. After half-an-hour's halt for breakfast, the party climbed straight up over rocks and snow, gaining the north-eastern arête, and the summit of the Mont Giouberny (supposed to have been previously untouched) in 2¼ hrs. from the breakfast. The view included the chief Dauphiné peaks, the Val Godémar, and the southern side of the range from the Cime du Vallon to the Col de Sais. Keeping to the right, the descent was effected by glissades, and in ¾ hr. from the top the party rejoined the others at the spot chosen for a bivouac, a little above the breakfast place.

Col de la Pilatte (about 11,000 ft.), *July* 22.—The whole party made the second recorded passage of this col (the first from the La Bérarde side). The couloir on the southern side was filled with snow, but the bergschrund was utterly impracticable, and a very difficult descent down about 100 ft. of precipitous rock to the right had to be effected, consuming no less than 1¼ hr. Ville Vallouise was gained the same evening.

'Tschingel, our dog, accompanied us throughout all the above-mentioned expeditions, with the exception of the Rouies, the Crête du Glacier Blanc, and the Mont Giouberny.'

Mont d'Ambin (11,092 ft.), and Col de Galambre (10,200 ft.), *July* 25.—Mr. Coolidge, with Almer and Michel, accomplished these little-known expeditions. Starting at 4.30 A.M. from a bivouac 1½ hr. above the Châlets en Aval (which are about 2¼ hrs. walking from a little chapel on the road between Salabertrand and Exilles), an easy ascent over grass, rocks, and snow led them to the Col de Galambre at 5.40. Rather over an hour's ascent along the ridge to the right led them to the 'signal' on the Mont d'Ambin. Here a splendid view was gained of the Dauphiné, Pennine, Graian, and Cottian Alps, including Monte Viso, Mont Blanc, Grand Combin and Matterhorn. Forty minutes were occupied in regaining the Col, whence the party in 35 min. got clear of the ill-famed glacier, and in about 4 hrs.' more actual walking reached Bramans on the Mont Cenis road.

Col des Grandes Jorasses, *July* 14.—Messrs. T. S. Kennedy, J. G. Marshall, Loppé, and Stephen crossed the pass between the Grandes and Petites Jorasses. Leaving the Montanvert at 3 A.M., they reached the foot of the rocks at 6.15, and the Col itself at a few minutes before 9.

* The earlier explorers of Dauphiné are opposed to the alterations suggested; and in the absence of very strong reasons for change it is always desirable to retain a name which has already become familiar to travellers.—*Editor, A. J.*

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They descended by the Glacier de Freboutzie and reached Courmayeur at 3 P.M. The pass presented no unusual difficulties. Guides Johann Fischer, Ulrich Almer, and Henri Devouassoud.

AIGUILLE DE BLAITIÈRE.—A point not actually the highest, but within a few feet of the highest, was reached this year by English mountaineers. They ascended by the Glacier des Nantillons. No further particulars have been received.

AIGUILLE DU MIDI, *August?* — Mons. and Madame Millot, with Johann Jann of Meiringen and Henri Devouassoud, ascended the Aiguille du Midi by a new route. They slept at the hut on the Plan des Aiguilles and crossed the col between the Aiguille du Midi and the Aiguille du Plan to the hut behind the Aiguille du Midi. They took a very long time to reach the col. They ascended the Aiguille du Midi the next day, returning to Chamonix by the Mer de Glace.

MONT BLANC, *July* 21.—Messrs. G. E. Foster and Moore, with Jakob Anderegg and Hans Baumann, left Courmayeur at 12.20 A.M., and reached the foot of the Gl. du Mt. Blanc, the most southerly feeder of the Miage, at 4.55. Starting again at 5.20, and following, more or less, Mr. Kennedy's route described in No. 40, they reached the summit of Mont Blanc at 4 P.M., their halts on the way having aggregated less than 1 hr. They descended by the usual route, and reached Chamonix at 10.40 P.M. To accomplish the whole distance from Courmayeur to Chamonix in one day will probably not always be found practicable, but there is no question that Mr. Kennedy's route is the best yet discovered for the ascent from Courmayeur, and may be made generally available. Though less direct and exciting than the route by the Brenva glacier, it is interesting and is comparatively free from difficulty, only the last thousand feet of rocks offering any obstacle worth mention. The erection of a hut on the rocks on the right bank of the Glacier du Mont Blanc would probably make the expedition one of the most popular in the Alps, and the subject might advantageously be considered by the Italian Alpine Club. Signor Gamba, a member of that Club, subsequently ascended from, and returned to, Courmayeur by this route, sleeping out two nights.

COL DE LUSENEY, FROM THE VALPELLINE TO THE VAL ST. BARTHÉLEMI, *Friday, July* 11.—Mr. A. Giles Puller, accompanied by J. J. Maquignaz and Louis Carrel (both of Val Tournanche) as guide and porter, left the house of the Curé at Bionnaz at 4 A.M., and, after ascending the valley for an hour, crossed the main stream of the Valpelline, and ascended by a path which led to a châlet on the brink of the stream which drains the gorge lying west of the Bec de Luseney; on a plateau higher up they passed a second châlet, and a third still higher on the edge of the stream which drains the glacier and gorge lying north of the Bec: this third châlet was left well to the left, and they commenced ascending the slopes which lead to the arête coming down from the Bec itself. After a time they reached the first snow-slope, and, that being surmounted, they continued the ascent, partly by rocks and partly by a couloir filled with snow, until they reached the arête itself. Continuing along the arête, about 11.30 A.M. they reached a level portion of it covered with snow, from whence they looked across

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a gulf to the séracs at the extremity of the glacier, which appeared quite hopeless either to ascend or descend, ending in a pitiless fall of 300 or 400 ft.: and could also see not far above a remarkable rocky tooth, inside or south of which it was possible to pass, and from thence a broad ledge landed them on the upper level of the glacier at 12.15 P.M., from whence (after resting an hour for dinner) they easily reached the Col de Luseney at 2 P.M.

One hour's descent brought them to the châlets of Luseney, and a second hour to the châlets of Preterier, where they halted for the night, as rain commenced to fall. From the châlets of Praclou an hour below commences an easy pass, called locally the Col de Fenêtre, which in one hour brought them to the upper châlets of Torgnon, in the Val Tournanche, whence Chatillon may be reached in 3 hours, and the village of Val Tournanche in little more than 4 hours.

Anyone attempting the pass the other way (from the Val St. Barthélemi to Valpelline) should, after reaching the Col, descend the glacier for ¼ of an hour, and then bear to the left so as to strike the remarkable rocky tooth, which will appear to him the end of the arête: he will thus avoid the séracs at the end of the glacier, to descend which is hopeless.

ASCENT OF THE DENT D'HERENS FROM BREUIL, *Thursday, July* 17.—Mr. A. Giles Puller, accompanied by J. J. and Pierre Maquignaz as guides, and Emmanuel Maquignaz and Louis Carrel as porters, left Breuil at ½ past 3 A.M., and in 2 hours reached the glacier which is called in Mr. Reilly's map, Glacier d'Erin, but which is known locally as the Glacier de Mont Albert. Ascending by the left side of the glacier, they passed between two patches of rock, and, after crossing the bergschrund, circled round to the right on the plateau above the great séracs, and pitched their tent about 3 P.M., on the ridge of rocks bordering the east side of the glacier. Starting the next morning (Friday, the 18th) at 4 A.M., they ascended first by a steep snow slope, and afterwards by the rocks to the right of the great couloir (visible from Val Tournanche) till, at 8.30 A.M., they reached the summit of the ridge which divides Val Tournanche from the Zardezan Glacier; the final peak of the Dent d'Herens standing out clear immediately in front of them. Without descending, they crossed the head of the glacier on to the southern arête, and then cut straight across the great ice-slope, and reached the western arête overhanging the Tiefenmatten Glacier at a great elevation. The passage from the ice-slope on to the arête occupied considerable time, the rocks being both steep and difficult. At 2 P.M. they reached the final arête, which was found to be extremely narrow, and touched the highest point at ¼ before 3 P.M.: they descended by the western arête, the lower portion of which presented great difficulties, so that they did not get on to the upper level of the Zardezan glacier till nearly 9 P.M., and reached Prerayen at 4 A.M. on the 19th, from whence they returned to Val Tournanche by the Val Cornère pass the same day.

SCHALLHORN, *July* 20.—Mr. T. Middlemore, with Johann Jann and Christian Lauener, left Zinal at 2.10 A.M., reached the top of the Moming Pass at 10.30 A.M. by the usual route, and thence ascended the Schallhorn

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by 11.45 A.M. They descended to Zermatt by the ordinary way. The Schallhorn is worth climbing, since from the Moming Pass the eastern view is spoilt by the Schallhorn, and the western by the Rothhorn range.

ROTHHORN, *July* 1 *and* 2.—Messrs. Thomas Cox and F. Gardiner, with J. M. Lochmatter and Peter Knübel, ascended this peak from Zermatt by the western arête, and descended to Zinal. They left their gîte on the moraine of the Trift Glacier, 2 hrs. above Zermatt, at 4 A.M., and reached the summit at 10 A.M. The last 2 hrs. of the ascent were over loose snow and ice-covered rocks, which rendered a considerable amount of step-cutting necessary. Near the summit they found the rope left by Messrs. Dent and Passingham (who made the first ascent by this route last year), almost entirely covered with ice. The descent was made by Mr. Leslie Stephens' route. The above party, the first that has crossed this mountain, consider it decidedly easier on the Zermatt side. Zinal was reached at 7 P.M.

August 16.—Mr. F. A. Wallroth left at 2 A.M. a bivouac just below the moraine of the Trift Glacier, with Nicolas and P. J. Knübel, for the ascent of the Rothhorn. They reached the top by 8 A.M., without any difficulty, owing to the absence of snow on the rocks. In descending, they diverged from the ordinary Zinal route, and came down the face for about 500 ft., and then crossed it till they struck the arête just below the lower of the two towers, where the snowfield from the Moming Pass touches it. This they descended, and finally arrived at the foot of the last slope on the Zinal side of the Moming Pass, the summit of which was reached at 12, and Zermatt at 6 P.M. The Zinal face of the Rothhorn is very steep, and if there were any snow on it, would be impracticable.

SCHWARZHORN.—The following account of the first ascent of the Schwarzhorn, one of the southern peaks of Monte Rosa, has been received from Baron Albert Rothschild:—'On August 17, with the Marquis Marco Maglioni, the guides Peter and Nicholas Knübel, Edward Cupelain, and three porters carrying a tent, I started from the Riffel hotel for the top of the Lysjoch, which we reached at 4 P.M. Two guides were sent on to see whether a rock, situated at a ½ hour's distance from the col (and which we found out later to be the Balmerhorn), would prove fit for an encampment. The guides returned, after an hour, telling us the Balmenhorn would not be a suitable place for pitching the tent; and so we passed the night at the foot of the Lys Kamm. The weather was calm, but rather cloudy, and unusually warm for a height of 13,000 ft., the thermometer marking 5° Réaumur at 7 in the evening. However, when it became dusk the cold was intense. A strong north-west wind cleared the sky, and when we rose at 3 A.M. our claret was completely frozen. We had the intention of making the ascent of the Schwarzhorn, but none of us knowing exactly the position of this peak, marked in Dufour's map a little below the Parrotspitze, whilst others place it near the Vincent Pyramide, we determined to scale first a rocky tooth between the latter and the Ludwigshöhe, in order to gain a good view of the surrounding summits. It took us less than 1 hour to reach the top, although the rocks were very steep; and Peter Knübel, whom we had appointed leader, scrambled up

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on the north side, which is by far more difficult than the southern (facing the Vincent Pyramide), by which we made our descent. On the summit, reached at 5.15 A.M., we found no stone-man, and this made us suspect our rocky tooth to be the Schwarzhorn. A flag was planted on the summit, and the usual stone-man erected by the guides. Immediately after the descent on the *south-west* side, we went up the Ludwigshöhe, and then the Parrotspitze, near which we could not discover the peak called the Schwarzhorn in Dufour's map. This fact, but still more so a detailed article on Monte Rosa and its nine summits in the last volume (1872–73) of the Italian Alpine Club, which we read on the following day at Alagna, fully convinced us that the first peak we had scaled was the Schwarzhorn. Its height, as given by Tschudi and others, is 4,295 mètres; but it overtops the Lysjoch, 4,300 mètres, consequently one of these statements must be wrong. We had the intention of ascending, also, the Signalkuppe and the Zumsteinspitze, but thick mist was rising rapidly in the Italian valleys, and therefore we hurried back to the Vincent Pyramide, which we ran up, and then descended to Alagna, where we arrived at 2 P.M. Our three porters had left us on the col, and carried back the tent to the Riffel.

'An Italian gentleman tried last year to get up the Schwarzhorn, but his attempt was frustrated by bad weather.'

THE STRAHLHORN FROM THE WEISSTHOR SIDE, *September* 2, 1872.—Messrs. A. P. Boyson and C. J. Penfold, with Franz Burgener and an Andermatten as guides, made the above ascent. They followed the Mattmark Weissthor track to within a short distance of the col. From this point the Strahlhorn presents the appearance of two walls of rock, the one surmounting the other, and divided by a belt of snow. The only care needful is to avoid stones, which occasionally fall, and whose accustomed tracks are clearly marked on the snow plateau beneath. The two rock cliffs having been climbed, the summit is reached by a moderately steep snow slope, or, as they found it, an ice slope, necessitating step-cutting for a considerable time. This, however, they venture to think was exceptional. The descent is on to the col of the Adler pass (thus combining a good ascent with the best part of this first-rate pass), and thence by the Adler and Findelen glaciers to a point on the Riffelberg, termed Gugel. The shades of evening having come upon them before they had well left the glacier, and the attempts to hit off the said Gugel being made in the dark, resulted in a late arrival at the Riffelhaus. This is, however, to be attributed to a late start and much step-cutting. The excursion occupied 17 hours, including halts, one of the party being unwell, but under ordinary circumstances 14 would be ample.

LAQUIN JOCH.—In crossing this pass a few days afterwards (September 6) the rocks on the left hand, formerly used in the descent, were found to have been swept away, thus compelling the party to make a straight line to the glacier beneath. This sheer descent cost about 4 hours, whereas by the old rocks much less time would have been required. Leaving Saas at 3.30 A.M., they reached the col at 8.30 A.M., and Simplon at 5 P.M.

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WEISSMIES, *August* 20.—Messrs. J. A. Peebles, J. Oakley Maund, and H. Noel Malan, with Johann Jann and Ulrich Huggler, of Meyringen, and Joseph Dorsaz, of Simplon, made the ascent of the Weissmies from the village of Simplon, and descended to Saas.

They left Simplon at 1 A.M., and ascending the Laquin Thal, reached, at 6, the foot of the Laquin Glacier. The left-hand branch of the glacier was followed into a semicircular basin, enclosed by the Weissmies on the right, Thälihorn on the left, and in front the ridge which joins the two. At 8.30 the top of this ridge was struck at a point about south of the summit of the Weissmies, which was reached at 11.45, the way being mostly up rocks to the last arête, which was trifling, the snow being soft. On account of the clouds, Dorsaz had refused to cross the peak and descend the other side of it, and so left the provisions on the ridge. The party was therefore obliged to return that way, after staying ½ an hour at the top. The ridge was left at 2, and Saas reached at 5.15. There was little glacier on this side, less than an hour sufficed to reach the top of the Zwischbergen Pass, whence they reached the Almageler Alp, and got into the Saas valley at Almagel.

Time: 16¼ hrs., including 1 hr. 40 min. of halts.

CENTRAL ALPS.

FINSTERAARHORN, *June* 28.—Messrs. Moore and H. Walker, with Melchior and Jakob Anderegg, left the Kastenstein at 2.15 A.M., reached the summit of the Finsteraarhorn, by the Agassiz-joch, at 12.15 P.M., and returned to Grindelwald by the same route at 8.45 P.M. Since Mr. Foster's ascent in 1868, one or two parties have followed the above route to the summit, but the descent has always been made to the Æggischhorn. There is, however, no reason why the descent to Grindelwald should not become popular, and the expedition be recognized as one of the 'stock' ones to be made from that place. Starting from the Faulberg, the distance would not be excessive, and a party could usually reckon with confidence on reaching Grindelwald before night, unless the great couloir below the Agassiz-joch happened to be in exceptionally bad order, in which case retreat to the Faulberg would be easy, or the night could be passed at the Kastenstein, where the quarters are pretty fair.

JUNGFRAU, *July* 10.—Mr. Moore, with Jakob Anderegg and Peter Schlegel, passed from the Hôtel Bellevue on the Klein Scheidegg to the Æggischhorn over the summit of the Jungfrau in a single day. Starting at 2.55 A.M., they reached the Silber-lücke at 10.15, the summit at 12.50 P.M., and the Æggischhorn at 8.55 P.M. The north side of the mountain was in good, but not first-rate, condition. On the south side the snow lay deep on the Aletsch glacier down to the Margëlen See, and on the slopes of the Æggischhorn to within a quarter of an hour of the hotel. As there is no convenient spot for a bivouac on the north side, persons attempting this expedition—perhaps the finest in the Bernese Oberland—would probably do well to follow Mr.

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Moore's example, and start from the Klein Scheidegg, trusting at least to reach the Faulberg on the other side. The descent *to* the Wengern Alp cannot be recommended, as the risk from avalanches while getting through the central icefall of the Guggi glacier in the afternoon is very great; on July 6, at 1 P.M. an immense mass of ice fell from near the Jungfrau-joch, and swept right down and across the central fall, completely smashing it up. There is no possibility of keeping out of the line of fire, so contracted is the available space.

ALETSCHHORN, *July* 4.—Mr. T. Middlemore, with Johann Jann and Christian Lauener, left the Faulberg at 3.50 A.M. Rounding the Dreieckhorn, they mounted the slopes and séracs of the eastern spur of the Aletschhorn. On reaching the col between that peak and the Dreieckhorn, they ascended by the usual route the eastern 'kamm,' and got to the top at 12. They returned by the Middle Aletsch Glacier to the Æggischhorn.

SCHRECKHORN FROM THE LAUTERAAR SATTEL, *July* 11.—Messrs. W. M. and R. Pendlebury, with Peter Baumann and Peter Kaufman, left the hut near the Gleckstein at 12.35 A.M., passed the Lauteraar Sattel at 5 A.M., and reached the summit of the Schreckhorn at 11.30 A.M. Actual walking, 10 hrs., and halts, 55 min. The old way by the Zasenberg was taken in descending. The course lay at starting along the slopes of the Wetterhorn range under the upper snowfields (not over them as in the account of the Lauteraar Sattel in the Alpine Guide), and taking to the Upper Grindelwald Glacier almost immediately above the great icefall, struck the ridge connecting the Berglistock and Schreckhorn a little to the right of the lowest point. This ridge was followed to the base of the final peak, and the ascent thence completed by the northern face of the mountain on a line keeping nearly straight upwards to the summit, and joining the arête by which the ascent has hitherto been made about 10 or 15 minutes from the top. This expedition would be shorter if the start was made from the 'Pavillon,' on the Unteraar Glacier.

WENDENSTOCK, *July* 26.—The following notes have been received from Mr. J. C. V. Bastow:—

'I had for a long time reconnoitred the highest point of the Gadmenfluh from Engstlen. It is called either Wendenstock or Schwarzstock, and bore the reputation of inaccessibility. It is against my principles to go with guides, and I was unable to find any companion willing to go with me. I started alone at 9.45, and ascended diagonally from the middle of the Engstlen See towards the right bank of the glacier, to which I kept up to the buttress which divides a small and very steep arm of the glacier (which runs down to the east) from the main stream. I cut steps across this to the rocks at the base of a large and very conspicuous couloir to the extreme east of the cirque of rocks forming the final peak. The rocks here were very smooth, and the ascent had to be made by the palms of my hands and my knees, holding my axe in my teeth now and then. I reached the base of the couloir at 10.45, where it was impossible to get into it, but by a short climb to the right over very rotten stone I overcame the difficulty. The rocks are very steep, and the ledges very small, but I reached the gap at the top at

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11.25. The danger of falling stones in the couloir is very great, as it is a perfectly smooth chimney, about 1,000 ft. high, and at (I should think) an angle somewhat above 75° (?) There are many huge masses at the top ready to fall, and one side overhangs. From the gap I crossed to the Gadmen side of the peak, and so ascended over huge blocks of stone, which give very uncertain footing, in 5 min. to the top (the extreme east of the peak), which I reached at 1.30, having spent 3¾ hrs. without halting from Engstlen. On the top I built a small cairn, which is just visible from Engstlen with a good glass. The descent occupied 3 hrs., the couloir being very difficult, as also the rocks at the base just above the arm of the glacier which has to be crossed. The view is finer than that from the Titlis, which hides scarcely anything, and is itself a conspicuous object. The right bank of the Gadmenthal is so much nearer from the Schwarzstock that I would recommend everyone who has a steady head to ascend it, in preference to the Titlis. I may also mention that there is a good pass from Engstlen to Meiringen between the Rothhorn and Glockhaus (Ball's Lauberstock ?). The ascent from the Melchsee is somewhat difficult, and the danger of falling stones considerable. The Glockhaus may be ascended on the way by its south arête. The view is preferable to that from the much-overrated Hohenstollen. Both ascent and descent require care. Time to Meiringen from the top 2½ hrs. In all, from Engstlen, including a halt at the top, 6 hrs. There are three or four ways of descending between the Graustock and the Wildgeisberg to Engelberg. All are taken diagonally from south-east to north, along the face of the precipices overhanging the lower Trubsee Alp, until you get on to the ordinary Jochli route to Engelberg. It would be well to allow the whole day for anyone of them, and they all require a steady head.

'The short cut from Engstlen to Meiringen, which is one of the most beautiful walks in Switzerland, is little known, and seems worth describing. As far as the direction-board (1½ hr.), 'Imhof and Meiringen,' the path is the same as the ordinary one. The horsepath then crosses the Gentelbach, but the footpath keeps on the right bank of the torrent, mounting for 5 min., past a spring and trough on the left (1.40 from Engstlen). In 10 min. a path descends to Wyler, on the left. In 10 min. more, another path goes down to Wyler, and you must here turn off for Meiringen (2 hrs. from Engstlen) sharply to the right, along an ill-marked track, over a patch of grass which descends through a belt of firs to a spring on the left, in 2 min. from the broad path to Wyler. Henceforward keep at the same level, turning neither right or left, about 2,000 ft. above Hof, which you can see below. In 2.40 from Engstlen, after 10 min. descent, you pass a trough on the right, and, in a few yards more, a waterfall; henceforth the path is unmistakeable, and brings you to Meiringen in 3 hrs. 10 min. The views of the Urbachthal by this route are very grand. The distances are throughout those of a fast walker in good training. The landlord at Engstlen does not like visitors to know of the short path to Meiringen, because (I am told) there is some arrangement with the innkeeper at Hof, who would suffer if Hof was not passed *en route* for Meiringen.'

Pizzo (10,096 ft.) and Passo di Campo Tenca (9,800 ft.). Faido

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TO PRATO IN VAL MAGGIA, *September* 5.—It is an instance of the perverse capriciousness of travellers that the Val Maggia, within a few hours of Lago Maggiore and easy reach of the St. Gothard road, should be so seldom visited. Mr. Ball has in vain done his best to call attention to its beauty, and it is perhaps idle to repeat his praise. But it may be possible, by pointing out another glacier pass leading into it, to attract some stray members of the Club to what is probably the finest granitic valley in the Alps. The route over the Basodine from Val Formazza to Bignasco has already been described in the Alpine Guide; a mountaineer may easily come by this way, and leave by Pizzo Campo Tenca. Bignasco itself is a charming halting-place. The village, a cluster of bright-coloured houses, capped by a grey campanile, stands amongst gardens and orchards at the junction of the blue water of Val Bavona with the still more exquisitely blue Maggia. High-arched bridges leap over either stream. The balcony of the inn, a tall house between the two rivers, commands a view unsurpassed for romantic beauty and picturesque completeness. Over a foreground of peach-trees and sunflowers the white hamlet of Cavergno gleams from among its vineyards on the neighbouring hillside. A little further the mountains of Val Bavona fall into the deep valley in successive buttresses, each a mass of the noblest outline, composed of cliffs sweeping down into curving slopes of granite boulders half buried in chestnut forests. The snows of the Basodine close and complete the picture. Charming walks may be found in every direction through the woods. One of the nearest is to a chapel behind Bignasco, standing on a brow commanding Val Bavona and the lower valley towards Cevio. A smaller chapel close at hand bears a date early in the sixteenth century, and its frescoes, sadly restored, at least contrast favourably with the modern horrors of Italian valleys. Fishermen should find good sport in the river, on the banks of which two or three native anglers are always to be seen brandishing their long, jointless bamboo rods. There is a telegraph, and a diligence twice a day from Locarno to Bignasco, and once to Fusio in the upper valley (where a new inn has lately been opened), 5 hrs. by mulepath from Faido or Airolo. Signor Patocchi, who entertains visitors at Bignasco, is a man of position in the Canton, and would be willing to meet the wants of English people if they came more frequently to his house. Clean beds, plenty of fish, and a fowl may always be relied on.

The possibility of crossing from Val Leventina to Val Maggia over the highest point of the range dividing the two valleys was first proved by Herr Studer (Jahrbuch des S. Alpenclub, vol. v. p. 121). The Swiss mountaineer was, however, led astray by his guides, and occupied many hours over an expedition which ought to be of very moderate length. The proper course from the Alp Crozlina is suggested in the Jahrbuch, and may very likely have been taken by foreign climbers, but the mountain is entirely new to Englishmen.

D. W. Freshfield, with François Devouassoud, reached the châlet of the Crozlina Alp, after a pleasant walk of 3 hrs. from Faido. The easiest line of ascent up the steep rocks which form the base of the Pizzo Campo Tenca is found by keeping near a little stream falling

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from the glacier to the south of a ridge ending in a point marked 2,470 mètres on Dufour's map. When the glacier is approached, it seems best to strike this ridge. Mounting alternately by steep banks of rock and névé, the peak was gained after a very direct but easy climb. Bad weather came on, and destroyed what must be a very interesting view, and the descent into Val di Prato had to be sought for in thick fog. From the gap between the two highest summits of Pizzo Campo Tenca, it proved easy to get down over snow and rough ground to the highest hut, whence a track led, in 1½ hr., from the peak to the first inhabited châlet, the solitary tenant of which was consoling himself with some excellent coffee. A ¼ of an hour further the head of Val di Prato is entered. A romantic path, built along the face of vertical cliffs, threads a long and narrow gorge where the rocks are fringed with beech, birch, and ash, and the stream, unequalled in the Alps for its brilliancy and depth of colour, forms a succession of sparkling leaps and still blue pools. At the junction of a glen, through which a path leads to Val Verzasca, a steep descent, which the stream shoots in a shower of water-rockets, leads to the hamlet of San Carlo. The path here crosses a bridge below the fall, and runs along a finely-broken hillside, richly clothed in thick beech and chestnut forests, until at Prato it joins the carriage-road of Val Maggia.

Times: Faido to Crozlina Alp, 3 hrs.; to Pizzo Campo Tenca, 2½ hrs.; to châlet, 1½ hr.; to Prato, 1¾ hr.; to Bignasco, 1¼ hr.: total, 10 hrs.

Pontresina to Sils Maria by the Sella and Scerscen Passes.—The following note has been received from the Rev. T. G. Bonney:—'Among the various possible combinations of passes over the Bernina chain, I believe the above is a new one. Though less direct than the Capütschin Pass, it offers a much greater variety of scenery, and, according to my guide, Hans Grass, the Sella is a far more beautiful pass than the Capütschin. The only part of the route which is new is the descent of a wall of rock, a spur from the Piz Sella, which divides the snowfields of the Sella Pass from the Scerscen Glacier. This cannot be very much less than 1,000 ft. high, and is one of the steepest that I have ever descended, but not difficult, as the rocks are very good for climbing. Grass led me down in first-rate style, with only one slight check. There is now a small Alpine hotel in the Roseg valley, rather more than 1½ hr.' walk from Pontresina. On an emergency they can make up ten beds. I found the place clean, comfortable, and well supplied, and the charges not too high, and strongly advise mountaineers, who intend to make long excursions in that district to avail themselves of it, and so secure having the snow in good order. Our times were, from this inn to top of Sella Pass, 3 hrs. 45 min.; thence to top of Scerscen Pass, 3 hrs. 20 min. (the descent of the wall occupying 1 hr. 10 min., the greater part being spent on rock); thence to Sils Maria, 3 hrs. 15 min.: total 10 hrs. 20 min. actual walking, rather fast.'

The Orteler.—We are informed, on the authority of Herr Sigward, of the Deutschen Alpen-Verein, that the 'Tuckettweg' up the Orteler has become impracticable, owing to the formation of a great crevasse

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extending right across the face of the mountain. In consequence, the 'Gebhardweg,' by which the first ascents were made in the last century, and which has long been considered impracticable, has again been brought into use. This lies along the east ridge, descending from the peak towards the Suldenthal and forming on one side the boundary of the Sulden Glacier.

HIGH-LEVEL ROUTE FROM SANTA CATARINA TO RABBI BY THE MONTE CEVEDALE AND VEDRETTA DELLA VENEZIA, *August* 22.—Messrs. J. G. and R. T. Ritchie, and D. W. Freshfield, with François Devouassoud, and a porter, left Santa Catarina at 3 A.M., and ascended Monte Cevedale by the glacier falling from it into Val Cedeh without going round to the Cevedale Pass. Having returned to the gap between the two summits (Mr. Tuckett's Furkele Joch) they traversed the crevassed southern face of the east peak to the ridge descending to the Hohenferner Joch. Following this ridge to the pass, they traversed the gap, and kept along the rocky crest dividing the Val della Mare from the Martell Thal. After an easy ascent, a small glacier was crossed and the crest again struck to the east of the stone-men, marking the second pass mentioned by Mr. Ball (Alpine Guide, 37 Route F).* They then climbed the shoulder of the Pizzo Venezia to a point scarcely 150 ft. below that rather insignificant summit. Few passes in the Alps command views equal to those of the central mass of the Orteler obtained between the Hohenferner Joch and this point, including on one hand the bold peaks of the Königspitze, Zebru and Orteler itself, on the other hand, the vast snowy masses which surround the Forno Glacier, sending down on this side also large glaciers into Val della Mare. The Œtzthaler Ferner are well seen, and in the opposite direction, the whole height of the Presanella, a splendid object, rising behind the meadows of the Val di Pejo. A descent of 5 min. led to the level snowfields of the Vedretta della Venezia, which were crossed to a broad gap, forming the highest pass between the Val della Mare and the Rabbi valley. Its height (about 10,300 ft.) is sufficient to overlook the opposite eastern ranges and to command a wide prospect over the fertile hills of the Nonsberg and the rich Trentino, fenced in like a garden by the distant spikes of the Botzen and Primiero Dolomites.

The following directions may be found useful in the descent. Keep at first on the left side of the small glacier; from the platform below its foot bear to the right to the highest pasturage, then to the left over a grass-slope leading to a stream, which must be crossed. The precipices which now stop the way must be turned by keeping well to the left and scrambling down a steep but easy gully, which leads to a track near the foot of one of the barriers of the valley. The path follows the right bank down three steep and stony descents separated by small

* In the 'Karte der Centralen Ortlergruppe,' published under the authority of the German Alpine Club, the route can be followed with sufficient accuracy. Ball's Hohenferner Joch is there Fürkel Scharte, and his second more easterly pass the Hohenferner Joch. The Vedretta della Venezia becomes the Vedretta Careser. The small glacier falling towards Val di Rabbi is well shown, but the ground below it is left vague. In this map the whole south-west limb of the Orteler group is most inaccurately represented, and might better have been left a blank.

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plains; below the last, and near some cottages, it crosses the stream, and after a time begins to mount along the hillside towards the village of Piazzola. For the Baths it is best to follow a watercourse, and then run down into the level meadows which extend for a mile above the mineral source.

The inns at Rabbi are rougher than the Stabilimento at Santa Catarina, without being, like Pejo, intolerably dirty and disorderly. The beds are clean and comfortable, sufficient food can be obtained, and the people are very civil to passing strangers.

Previous to the expedition here described no way was known between Santa Catarina and Rabbi unless by descending deep into either the Martell Thal or the Val della Mare. The new route is very direct, free from difficulty, and not too laborious, involving a second ascent of only 1,000 ft. The latter part of it is, of course, equally available for mountaineers crossing from the Suldenthal to Rabbi, who can ascend Monte Cevedale from St. Gertrud in about the same time as from Santa Catarina. *Times*:—Ascent of Monte Cevedale 6 hrs.; to Hohenferner Joch, 1 hr.; to shoulder of Pizzo Venezia, 2 hrs.; to pass overlooking Val di Rabbi, 50 min.; descent to Baths, 3 hrs. Total 12 hrs. 50 mins.

Val Teresenga and Bocca di Vallezza, *August* 23 *and* 24.—The same party (except the porter) crossed by this hitherto undescribed valley and pass from Cles to Molveno.

There are probably few valleys in the Alps 6 hrs. in length the name of which is not mentioned in the 'Alpine Guide.' Val Teresenga has met with this fate. The entrance to the valley is near Tuenno, a few miles below Cles in Val di Non. A good cart-road mounts beside the stream through a porphyry gorge, which recalls the scenery near Botzen. High up on the vertical cliffs on either hand are seen watercourses constructed with wonderful boldness, in order to fertilise the lower valley. Above the spot whence these draw their supplies, the stream itself is buried under huge rock-avalanches, the remains of which give a desolate air to the valley. Although there are no permanent dwellings in Val Teresenga, its forests afford employment in summer to a large population. Being Saturday afternoon, at least 200 men, women, and children were met returning to their homes, most of them laden with baskets of raspberries and bilberries.

The road presently mounts more steeply under the smooth cliffs of Monte Corno, and the forest becomes thicker. About 2½ hrs.' steady walking from Tuenno the Lago di Tovello, a sheet of clear blue water about a mile long by half a mile wide, is suddenly discovered embosomed amongst dense forests and lofty cliffs. A native of Cles has built a small fishing lodge on the shore.

The porter, instead of taking the direct path beside the lake and along the valley, insisted, for fear of being benighted, on our climbing a steep ascent of at least 2,000 ft. to a châlet said to be nearer than the Flavona Alp. The labour was repaid by an unexpectedly extensive view not only of the mountains round the head of the valley, but of the Venetian Dolomites as far as the Pelmo. The châlet (known as the Malga di Sotto) stands on the edge of a shelf of pasturage under

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the rugged limestone cliffs of the Sasso Rosso and Sasso Alto. The still, blue lake lies deep beneath, buried in forest and girt in by broken crags. Above and below the lake there is no floor to the glen; where a torrent might be expected to flow through a tolerably level trough, nothing is seen but a confusion of high-piled mounds. Some extraordinary convulsion of nature has overthrown mountains and blocked up the valley with their remains; but the ruin is so veiled in a thick cloak of verdure as scarcely to attract attention at first sight.

From this châlet it is a walk of 2 hrs., gradually descending along forest paths skirting the great precipices above the lake, to the lower Flavona Alp, standing at the foot of a steep low barrier. Half an hour higher, in the middle of a broad sloping meadow, is the upper Flavona châlet. Two passes were known to the herdsmen, one on the W. leading to Campiglio, another on the E. to Spor Maggiore; neither they nor the porter, who had been for many years a forester in the valley, knew of any direct way to Val delle Seghe and Molveno. The track to Spor enters an upland valley running under the cliffs of Monte Tublan, the highest of which is crowned by a shepherd's cross. Turning to the right, and passing close to the southern foot of a rock resembling the Riffelhorn, the party entered a snowy hollow closed by a saddle, separated by a stretch of rocky ground from the watershed. Close to the W. base of the bold but probably accessible out-lying pinnacle of Monte Gallina, a gap was found leading into the extreme head of the northern branch of Val delle Seghe. It is proposed to call the pass the Bocca di Vallezza, from the name of the highest pasturage on the Molveno side. Clouds hid the view, which must be fine; the lake of Molveno was seen through the first break in the mist. The descent, through scenery at least equal to that of the other branch of the valley, is at first over steep beds of snow and rock, and then by a sheep-path. The only place where it is possible to miss the way is near the first shepherd's shelter, where a path will be found on the right in the ravine of the torrent. The track of the Bocca di Brenta is joined at the fork of the valley. *Times*:—Tuenno to Flavona Alp (estimated by the direct path) 5 hrs.; to Pass, 1½ hr.; descent to Molveno, 2½ hrs.

Carè Alto and High-level Route from Val Rendena to Val Camonica, *August* 25 *and* 26.—The same party, with B. Nicolosi of Molveno, drove down from Pinzolo to Borzago, and walked up the Val di Borzago to the châlets at which Messrs. S. Taylor and Montgomery slept before their ascent of the Carè Alto. The mountain is constantly in view, and the valley is throughout well-wooded and picturesque. Birch trees of Caucasian growth flourish near its head. The cows were higher on the mountains, and they climbed on up a steep path into the recess lying above the barrier at the head of the valley, and west of the spur which, springing from the base of the Carè Alto, forms the limit of the Borzago Glacier.

The promised 'malga' proved to be nothing more than a rude shelter formed by piling up a wall of stones against the underside of an overhanging rock. The narrow space inside was already occupied by three men and a girl, and crowded with cheeses and milk-pails, so

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that it was with difficulty that room was found to make up a bed with the brushwood collected outside for fuel.

Starting at daylight next morning Mr. Freshfield's party climbed the spur already mentioned. The best course is to follow it to the base of the peak, where it sinks into a snow ridge, and the Borzago Glacier can be reached without any descent. This line of ascent is shorter than that previously taken by the (true) left of the glacier. Future climbers are recommended to strike straight up the rocky N.E. face of the peak, which does not seem to offer any serious difficulty. Mr. Freshfield and his companions turned to the right, and after a little trouble with crevasses, reached the gently-sloping snowfield at the N. base of the Carè Alto, on this side an ice-wall of great steepness. By striking the N.W. ridge low down, and then completing the ascent as much as possible by the rocks, they avoided the necessity of cutting more than a dozen steps. It is only for a few yards that the rocks become too smooth to give satisfactory foothold.

The first glimpse of the green pasturages of Val di Fum, seen as an oasis amidst rocks and snow, is very striking, and may recall the legend of the lost valley of Monte Rosa. The panorama is naturally extensive, and, from the position of the peak overlooking on one side vast glaciers, on the other fertile valleys, rich in contrast.

After returning to the glacier, the party skirted the sides of Monte Folletto and the Corno di Cavento, and having crossed the almost imperceptible division between the nevé of the Borzago and Laris Glaciers, gained the well-marked gap between the Cavento and the Crozzon di Laris. The granite ridge on the left is broken into horns and pinnacles of unusual boldness and splendid colouring. From this pass they descended on to the snowfields of the Fum Glacier, and crossing to those which feed the Matterot Glacier (Lobbia Gl. of Payer) reached the Passo della Lobbia alta. The Vedretta di Bedole (Mandron Gl. of Payer) was next crossed in its greatest breadth to the Passo del Mandron, the lowest gap in the chain connecting the Corno Bianco and Monte Mandron. As the party drew near the Corni del Confine, a family group of three chamois were seen on the snow, and shortly afterwards a gun was fired from among the rocks skirting the glacier, and a solitary hunter sprang forward. The shot missed, but it was curious to see how in their flight the two old chamois not only would move no faster than the pace of their young, but placed themselves close on either side, as if instinctively sheltering it from danger. A snowfilled trough leads to one of the glaciers of Val di Avio. The ice should soon be quitted on its right bank where a gully, amidst rugged crags, gives access to the highest pasturages. A rough cow-track, difficult to trace, leads down to the first châlet, where the stream must be crossed.

The scenery at the head of Val di Avio is of a very high order. The Adamello unexpectedly rears itself up in a noble pyramid, large glaciers fall from its flanks, and on the other side the Corno di Baitone and its neighbours form a sheaf of snow-girt horns and pinnacles. One of the level platforms common in this group is filled by a large lake and a smooth expanse of meadow, into which two torrents pour over

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side by side in splendid cascades. Below the lake the glen falls with extraordinary rapidity, and a very stony path, mainly on the left bank, leads down past a succession of waterfalls, any one of which might be famous in a less favoured region.

The lower level of the valley is devastated by the torrent. Travellers ascending Val Camonica to Ponte di Legno, the nearest sleeping-quarters, will cross the stony bed and follow a cart-track joining the Tonale road a little below Pontagna, and about 2½ miles from Ponte di Legno, where the inn is much improved.

This route across the snowy table-lands of the Adamello may be shortened by from 3 to 4 hrs. by omitting the ascent of the Carè Alto. It would then cease to be a day of unusual length, and there is probably no place in the Alps where five watersheds of equal elevation can be crossed with so little fatigue. The views of the surrounding ranges, especially of the whole chain of the Brenta Alta, are most splendid, and mountaineers already acquainted with Val di Genova can scarcely do better than follow the track here pointed out. The passes traversed are believed to have been all accomplished by Lieut. Payer, or other foreign mountaineers, but their combination is certainly new. The relative heights assigned to the Passo di Cavento and Fum Pass (9,400 and 9,800 Austrian feet) by Payer require revision, the former being decidedly the higher of the two.

Bonifazio Nicolosi of Molveno can be recommended as a splendid rock-climber and as one of the most cheerful and ready companions and sturdy weight-carriers to be found in the Alps. He seems also perfectly capable to take the lead on ice. It is a pity that his duties as a forester prevent his accepting any long engagement.

Times—Borzago to shepherd's hut, 4½ hrs.; ascent of Carè Alto, 4 hrs.; to Passo di Cavento, 2½ hrs.; to Passo della Lobbia alta, 1 hr.; to Passo del Mandron, 1½ hr.; descent to Alp near Lago di Avio, 1½ hr.; to Ponte di Legno, 2½ hrs. (fast); total (second day) 13 hrs.

ALPINE NOTES.

CHAMONIX * GUIDES AND THE DEATH ON THE MER DE GLÂCE.

A letter from the Editor of the 'Alpine Journal' appeared in the 'Times' of October 7, giving some of the leading facts connected with the recent death of Professor Fedchenko, a Russian *savant*, already distinguished for his researches amongst the mountains of Central Asia. A report spread at Chamonix that the immediate cause of the catastrophe

* The 'Times' reviser, following the ordinary custom of English printers, twice substituted 'Chamounix' for 'Chamonix.' Good literary authority can be found for both 'Chamounix' and 'Chamouni.' But 'Chamonix' is the spelling of the people of the valley, and of the French Ordnance Survey and Post-office, and there seems no reason why it should not in England, as in accurate Germany, be universally accepted.

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