

spent in halts. The greater portion of these routes can be followed in the photograph in vol. x. p. 332 of the Journal.

In July the Nadelhorn was ascended by Mr. E. S. Balch from Saas, by the route mentioned in vol. x. p. 337. He describes the expedition as long and on the whole uninteresting. Messrs. Freeman and Sloman likewise reached the summit from Saas on August 16.

ALPINE NOTES.

'OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS' ON ALPINE ACCIDENTS.—To refer in detail to the many inaccuracies in the telegrams relating to Alpine news, ascents and accidents sent home during the past twelve months by our newspaper correspondents might seem trivial, and would certainly be tedious. But before another season commences it may be as well to ask publicly, and in print, a question which must often rise to the lips of our readers. What good purpose can be served in the case of accidents by the premature publication of these irresponsible paragraphs? In so special a subject it may be unreasonable to expect of a correspondent, even though he be resident at Geneva, such an elementary knowledge of mountain craft and Alpine topography as might enable him to sift to some extent the rumours that reach him—and to spell decently. As a fact we know that the average correspondent, or his reviser, confuses the Bernina and San Bernardino, the Mont Cenis and Monte Cenere; that he thinks Breil a possible starting-point for the ascent of the Dent du Géant! He can even send home without blushing such a piece of intelligence as this—'A new railway is in contemplation from Innsbruck to Maloya, which will shorten the journey from Central Germany to Verona.'

Mountaineers have no right to complain of the exceptional publicity given in the press to the details of Alpine disasters. If they teach a lesson to others, it is well that these details should be fully reported and discussed. But then they must be reported by competent writers. There can be no profit, and there may be much pain, involved in the publication of fictitious details, as in the case of the Wetterhorn accident, or with regard to Professor Balfour's anticipation of extraordinary peril. Again, a few gossipmongers may be gratified to know twenty-four hours earlier that 'another Englishman has lost his life near Zermatt.' But is their pleasure to be weighed against the anxiety caused in many homes by an announcement so cruelly and needlessly vague? It is difficult to feel any patience with the sender who, living at Geneva, might in a few hours, and at the cost of a few pence, have obtained from Monsieur Seiler all needful details.

Is it not obvious that while special correspondents in Switzerland are what they are, they should leave Alpine accidents to be reported by competent persons on the spot? Private letters are never wanting, and are invariably published. It seems a pity—even from the editorial point of view—that so large a portion of them should have to be devoted to refuting the previous statements of paid contributors. And

on the public and the friends of those who have perished it is certainly hard that the untruthful story should be published first in large type and its refutation afterwards in small.

MEETINGS OF THE FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS.—The International Alpine Congress was held at Salzburg on August 11–13. Lectures were given on the preparation of Alpine maps, the building of Alpine huts, ice grottoes, and the aims sought to be attained by Alpine societies, and Professor Forel of Morges presented a report of the observations made on the Rhone glacier.* It was determined to invite the clubs represented at the congress to nominate delegates to discuss certain proposals for a federation of Alpine societies, and to report to the next International Congress, which is to be held at Turin in 1884. The Alpine Exhibition was well arranged and excited much interest.

The congress of the German Club was held at Salzburg on August 14, immediately after the International Congress. Salzburg was chosen as the seat of the club for the years 1883–5, and Professor Richter president. It was resolved to establish provisionally for two years a system of insurance for guides, by which two-fifths of the premium is to be paid by the guides themselves, the rest being borne by the three chief Alpine societies of Germany and Austria. The congress in 1883 will be held at Passau.

The annual meeting of the Swiss Club was held in Neuchâtel (and not as wrongly announced in the August number) on August 19 and following days. Professor Forel's report on the Rhone glacier observations was received with great favour, and an interesting account was given by M. Colomb of the Creux du Van, which was visited by many of those present, the weather being very favourable. The club now includes 29 sections and numbers 2,595 members. The meeting of 1883 will be held under the auspices of the Bern section, Herr Lindt being chosen president. The 'Itinerarium' for 1882–3, by Herr E. von Fellenberg, is admirably executed, and a most valuable summary of the Alpine history (with a very full bibliography) of that part of the Bernese Alps which, roughly speaking, lies west of the Lötschenlücke. We learn that a continuation, including the rest of the Bernese Oberland, is in preparation. It may be mentioned in this connection that the 'Neue Alpenpost' of Zürich ceased to exist at the end of 1882, its place being supplied by the 'Schweizer Alpenzeitung,' which is published fortnightly by F. Schulthess at Zürich, under the editorship of Pfarrer Lavater, on behalf of the Uto section and with the support of all the German-speaking sections of the club. The subscription for England is only five shillings.

The Italian Club held its annual meeting at Biella on August 29 and following days, under the presidency of Signor Quintino Sella. Signor Mosso read a paper on the circulation of the blood at great heights, Signor Baretti gave a geological description of the Mont Blanc range, Signor Vittorio Sella related his experiences of the Matterhorn

* Eighteen photographs, taken in the course of these observations, have been published, and can be obtained from the Federal Topographical Office at the price of 6 francs apiece.

in March, and Signor Alessandro Sella, who was received with great enthusiasm on account of his recent conquest of the Dent du Géant, gave a short account of his exploit. A diploma of honour was presented to J. A. Carrel and Louis Carrel, Mr. Whympers guides in South America, and a silver badge to Giuseppe Maquignaz, who had led the Signori Sella up the Géant. The excursions organised, which extended as far as Gressoney, seem to have been very successful, though the weather might have been finer, a complaint which all who were in the Alps last summer will heartily endorse. The meeting of 1883 will come off under the auspices of the Brescia section. The club now numbers 3,567 members.

The congress of the French Club was held on August 31 and following days at Clermont Ferrand and Mont Dore in Auvergne. A series of excursions was organised and carried out, which included visits to all the more remarkable spots of that most interesting district. The congress of 1883 will be held at Chamonix and Sixt.

ALPINE PHOTOGRAPHS.—The bad weather which afflicted all mountaineers in every part of the Alps last summer does not seem to have had any influence on those enterprising climbers who, in the words of one of them, find that 'photography combined with mountaineering is a most fascinating and delightful pursuit.' Mr. Donkin has added many fine specimens, comprising views in the Bernese Oberland and Mont Blanc districts, to his already extensive collection. The panorama from the summit of the Schreckhorn is perhaps the most remarkable. But most of our readers will have already seen Mr. Donkin's views at the Club Exhibition, and we need not say more about them except to express a hope that our artist colleague will long continue to pursue his successful career. His Italian rival, Signor Vittorio Sella, has taken some very remarkable large views during the past summer. Chief among them is a panorama taken on July 29 (the day his relatives scaled the Géant) from the summit of the Matterhorn, in twelve bits, those looking down on Zermatt and the Theodul being very curious. We believe that such large photographs have not yet been taken at so great a height. Signor Sella has also a panorama from the summit of the Grand Paradis, which is specially interesting, as giving views of the little-known ranges of the Tsantalana (or Sainte Hélène) and Sassièrè, above Tignes. The veteran Herr Beck, of Strasburg, who was probably the first to employ photography to any large extent in reproducing scenes among the high Alps, took a series of 100 views last summer, chiefly in the Bernese Oberland and the Val de Bagnes ranges and glaciers. We may specially mention a panorama from the Bella Tola in thirteen bits, and series of views on the way up the Finsteraarhorn and on the Otemma glacier.

To the outsider in matters photographic so great an amount of success in such a bad season proves the great skill and perseverance of the artists, while it affords him the pleasure of acquiring accurate and picturesque reproductions of the scenes amid which he wanders in summer, and to which his thoughts turn during the long dreary winter months.

THE HURRICANE AT GRINDELWALD.—Herr Strasser, the pastor of

Grindelwald, has sent to the 'Neue Alpenpost' of Zürich an account of the great hurricane at Grindelwald on October 27 last, from which we extract the following details. The Föhn began to blow at 4 A.M., and by 7 A.M. had risen to such a height as had not been known before in the memory of man. Many roofs were blown off; the shingles and heavy stones were whirled through the air with great violence; numbers of the finest trees were levelled to the ground. Up to 3 P.M. the wind came from the south through the great gaps which are filled by the two glaciers. Then it changed its direction and rushed down from the Kl. Scheidegg side, and the alarm and damage were even greater than before, many families taking refuge in their cellars or endeavouring to prop up the rocking walls of their houses. This terrible state of things lasted till midnight, when the wind subsided and rain fell in torrents, ruining all the stored-up hay in the unroofed barns and causing great loss and inconvenience to the inhabitants themselves. The chief loss is in the utter destruction of many of the pine forests surrounding the valley, which in so many ways contribute to the support of the pastoral population. The official surveyors counted in two days no less than 5,000 trees which had been uprooted, broken short off, or greatly injured. Wonderful to say, no lives were lost. Similar catastrophes, due to the same cause, are recorded to have taken place at Grindelwald in 1606, 1684, and 1750, but none seem to have been so destructive. Wärgisthal, Itramen, and Burglauenen—the hamlets on the south-west slope of the valley—are mentioned as having specially suffered. Lauterbrunnen, the Haslithal, and Adelboden were also much damaged by this terrific wind-storm, the forests in all cases being very much thinned.

MAURER FUND.—Mr. Church has received the following additional subscriptions:—

	£	s.	d.
G. Gruber (Genoa)	20	0	0
Albert Millot (Paris)	5	0	0
C. E. Mathews	2	0	0
Henry Wagner	1	1	0
J. L. G. Mowat	1	0	0
J. C. Lemon	1	0	0
J. A. Hutchison	1	0	0
E. Hulton	1	0	0
R. M. Beachcroft	0	10	6
Miss Richardson	0	5	0
L. Powell	0	5	0
	33	1	6

and Mr. Howard Barrett:—

	£	s.	d.
J. B. Carrington	1	0	0
Percy Farrar	1	0	0
John E. H. Peyton	1	0	0
Miss Mary Petrie	0	10	0
	3	10	0

Total amount collected, 31*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* (exclusive of collection made
o 2

at the Adler, Grindelwald, particulars of which have not come to hand. The amount is believed to be not large).

AN EARLY GUIDE.—The following curious passage from Sallust* will interest our readers:—

‘Marius had spent much time and toil (in besieging a Numidian fortress on a lofty rock rising from the plain), and began seriously to debate whether he should give up his attempt as vain or should wait for that good fortune which he had often turned to account. As he was anxiously considering these questions for many days and nights it happened that a Ligurian, a common soldier of the auxiliary cohorts, going out of the camp for water not far from a side of the fort which was turned away from the combatants, remarked snails crawling among the rocks; and as he picked up one or two of them, and then sought for more, he came by degrees, intent upon gathering, almost to the highest part of the mountain. And then, when he perceived its loneliness, the desire of doing what is difficult, which belongs to human nature, possessed his mind. And by chance a great holm oak had at that spot fixed itself among the rocks, first lying low for a little way, then bending and growing upwards, according to the natural tendency of all fertile plants. Resting his weight now on the branches of this tree, now on projecting rocks, he made a survey of the level ground of the fort, as all the Numidians were intently occupied with the combatants. When he had examined everything he thought likely to be afterwards of use, he returned by the same way, not heedlessly as he had gone up, but testing and inspecting every point of the path; and so coming with all speed to Marius, he informed him of what he had done, and encouraged him to make an attempt on the fort from the side by which he had himself ascended, promising that he would be leader alike in the march and in the danger.

‘Marius sent with the Ligurian some of those at hand, to ascertain the nature of his scheme; and these, according to their various tempers, reported the matter difficult or easy. But the consul’s spirit was somewhat roused; accordingly, he chose from the force of trumpeters and hornblowers five as active men as he could find, and sent with them for their protection a few soldiers and four centurions, giving them all orders to obey the Ligurian, and appointing the next day for the adventure. But when the appointed time arrived he set out to the place with all prepared and in order. Those, however, who were to make the ascent, instructed by their leader, had changed their arms and equipment, going with bare head and feet that they might more easily get sight and hold among the rocks. On their backs they carried swords and shields, but the latter were Numidian ones made of leather, both because of the difference in weight, and that they might sound less loudly if they were struck. The Ligurian then, leading the way, fastened nooses round the rocks and any old roots that jutted out, in order that by their help the soldiers might ascend more easily; at times he gave a hand to them if they were frightened by the unwonted character of their march; where the

* ‘Bell. Jug.’ cap. 93-4.

ascent was a little too rough he sent them on separately without arms, and then followed with their arms himself; he was very ready in testing places which looked dangerous to rest upon, and in encouraging the rest by going up and down the same place several times, and then at once stepping aside. So after long and heavy toil they at last reached the fort, deserted on that side, since its defenders, as on former days, were engaged in presence of the enemy, and it was successfully captured.'

THE DENT DU GÉANT.—Signor A. Sella has sent the Editor a letter written by Signor Simonetti, the officer now engaged on the new survey of the Italian side of the Mont Blanc chain, who by trigonometrical observations from the Cramont determined last summer the difference in height between the two pinnacles of the final ridge of this peak (making the ascent of the lower on July 31). Assuming that the distance from the Cramont to either point is precisely the same, the tooth climbed by Mr. Graham is 1.73 mètres * (= 5 ft. 8 in.) the higher; if Mr. Graham's peak is taken as slightly farther from the Cramont, the difference may be nearly as much as 2 mètres (= 6 ft. 6 in.). It may be well to state that Signor Sella's exact words, translated at pages 72 and 73 of the last 'Alpine Journal' 'to excavate (or mine) the rock,' are 'rompere la roccia.'

ZERMATT NOTES.—The following ascents have not been recorded in the 'Alpine Journal.' Two were made by Mr. Dent, in company with Alex. Burgener:—Aug. 1870, the Südlenspitze; 1871, the highest point of the Portiengrat. The Sonnighorn (near Almagel) was ascended by Mr. Mummery in 1879; in August 1879 Mr. Alfred Jonas, in company with Alexander Burgener, 'made a new pass from Randa, under the Nadelhorn, over the Gassenried glacier, then over the Gasi(g) col to Stalden.' The above come from Alex. Burgener's testimonial book.—W. M. CONWAY.

TEN DAYS IN THE ALPS.—The following series of ascents made last summer by Mr. R. M. Barrington is curious enough to deserve a place in these pages, though it is possibly surpassed by the records of some of our members. July 25. To Schwarzegg-Hütte. July 26. Up Gross Schreckhorn and back to Grindelwald. July 27. To Glectstein hut. July 28. Lauteraarjoch to the Grimsel. July 29. Over Oberaarjoch to Rothloch. July 30. Up Finsteraarhorn and down to Concordia Hütte. July 31. To Eggischhorn inn and back to Concordia. August 1. Up Jungfrau and back to Eggischhorn inn. August 3. Visp to Zermatt. August 4. To Matterhorn hut. August 5. Up Matterhorn and back to Zermatt. Mr. Barrington's guides in the Oberland were Peter Kaufmann and Peter Baumann (not the well-known man of that name), and at Zermatt Joseph Taugwalder and Joseph Brantschen. The fact that such a continuous series of ascents should have been made in the course of so bad a season as the last is perhaps as astonishing as the fact that they were made at all.

MOUNTAINEERING WITHOUT GUIDES.—The Eastern Alps seem last

* In the *Rivista Alpina* for December Signor Simonetti, however, gives the difference as 1.60 mètres.

summer to have been selected as the playground of those skilled climbers who are able to dispense with professional assistance, and yet so strictly observe all well-established precautions that no charge of recklessness or rashness can possibly be brought against them.

Messrs. C. and L. Pilkington and E. Hulton accomplished the Piz Bernina, the Piz Roseg, the Disgrazia by a new route, and other difficult expeditions. The brothers Zsigmondy, during a two months' trip, scaled the Sorapiss, the Pelmo, the Pala di San Martino, the Cimon della Pala, Piz Linard, Fluchthorn, and many other peaks in the Brenta, Adamello, and Ortler districts. It will soon become quite a distinction for a difficult peak to have resisted the attacks of such indefatigable and successful mountaineers.*

ALPINE MEETING IN WALES.—There will be a meeting of members of the Alpine Club on Saturday, March 31, at the Royal Goat Hotel, Beddgelert. The price of the dinner will be 21s. Morning dress. Some of the members will meet on Friday evening at the Royal Hotel, Carnarvon, and will walk the next day from Nantle over Morl Hebog to Beddgelert. Members intending to dine are requested to send their names in to Mr. E. Hulton, Union Club, Manchester, before Friday, March 23.

A WINTER ASCENT OF BEN NEVIS.—On January 3 I made an ascent of Ben Nevis under the most favourable conditions. The weather was clear and unclouded, and as the surrounding hills were completely covered with snow, the view from the top was quite Alpine. Owing to the situation of the mountain, and the lochs by which it is surrounded, a very beautiful feature in the panorama was the effect produced by snowy mountains and sea, almost side by side. The snow on the mountain was in such first-rate condition that the descent was accomplished in less than 2 hrs., the party being able to glissade some 400 or 500 feet, a method of descending mountains which seemed to be somewhat novel to the 'guides' of Fort William.

C. D. CUNNINGHAM.

EXPLORATIONS IN SCANDINAVIA.—Monsieur Charles Rabot, who in 1881 made the ascent of the highest peak in Lapland,† has published in 'La Nature' (Paris: G. Masson) for July 29 last an interesting account of his glacier investigations in the North, illustrated by two engravings copied from photographs taken by the author. His experience in the Alps seems to have stood him in good stead, and the comparisons he makes between the Scandinavian and Swiss glaciers are instructive. A more detailed account of a portion of his journeys will be found in the *Annuaire* of the French club for 1881. We learn that M. Rabot last summer made his third journey to the Northern glaciers, in the course of which he fully explored the great snow-fields of Svartisen and Spitzberg.

* We take this opportunity of mentioning that in the *Oesterreichische Alpenzeitung* for June 2 last Herr Emil Zsigmondy has carefully examined all the arguments alleged against the first ascent of the Thurnerkamp by Mr. Pendlebury's party, and decides that to doubt its genuineness is a sign of ridiculous obstinacy. We hope this question is now finally settled.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 363.