

spite of this fact, the rock pinnacles are grand enough and difficult enough to satisfy anyone who loves a good rock scramble.

### *Notes on the Map.*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C. Cave.</li> <li>1. Woodhouse Kop.</li> <li>2. S. Tugela Gate.</li> <li>3. Mont aux Sources, 11,500 (?).</li> <li>4. Imponjwana, 10,550 (?).</li> <li>5. Umunweni Castle, 10,460.</li> <li>6.6. Two peaks of Umponqwasi.</li> <li>7. Inkosana, 11,050 (?).</li> <li>8. (Tetelelu, or) Cathkin Peak, 11,000 (?).</li> <li>9. Sterk Horn, 10,230.</li> <li>10. Kantunja Arête.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. Isiwa Nimpumalanga, or East Kranz, 11,100 (?).</li> <li>12. Pass, 10,630.</li> <li>13. Sterk Horn Pass, 9,460.</li> <li>14. Umhlwazin Eland Pass, 7,050.</li> <li>15. 7,315. (The Little Berg, Sterk Spruit Berg, Cathkin Berg, and Noginya Ridge, are sandstone, varying from 6,000 to 7,000 feet in height.)</li> <li>16. N. peak } of Segwana Cirque,</li> <li>17. S. peak } each about 10,800.</li> <li>18. Two peaks, about 10,700.</li> </ul> |
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The outlines of the map which accompanies this paper are based on that of Mr. Alexander Mair (land surveyor, Natal) published by Messrs. Stanford and Co., of London.

### ALPINE NOTES.

THE PRESENT VOLUME OF THE ALPINE JOURNAL.—With the view of keeping the size of the present volume of the 'Alpine Journal' uniform with that of its predecessors—despite two unusually large numbers recently issued—it has been decided to bring it to a close with the publication of the number for November next. As that number will therefore contain the index to Volume XIV., the Editor requests that all contributions for insertion in it may be forwarded to him as soon as possible. Volume XIV. will thus contain six numbers only (in lieu of the eight which ordinarily make a volume). A further advantage of this change is that henceforth each volume will include the issues of two complete years (instead of, as on the old plan, bits of three), and may thus be lettered more conveniently when bound.

PICTURE EXHIBITION IN THE CLUB ROOMS.—Lovers of high mountain scenery have been in luck this year, for the exhibition of Signor Sella's photographs, which was on view at the Club rooms from June 5 to 8, was a treat in itself, even though it came so soon after the exhibition of Mr. Donkin's work. The gigantic pictures in platinotype were especially noticeable. Of these there were two in particular which are as good as any photograph of the Upper Alps which has yet been produced. One, of the Matterhorn from the Dent d'Hérens, No. 279, was enlarged from the well-known view with the light cloud clinging to the Italian side of the great peak. The other, which to most eyes seemed much improved by the enlargement, was a view of fine snow crevasses on the Glacier du Chardon, in Dauphiné. The

Dauphiné views, indeed, were a marked feature of the show, and included grand panoramas from the Pic Coolidge (Nos. 504-6), the Grande Ruine (Nos. 490-3), Meije (Nos. 497-9), Rouies (Nos. 482-3), &c. Signor Sella was very fortunate in one or two of his cloud effects, one from the top of Castor (Nos. 463 and 464) being perhaps unrivalled in its representation of a pure snow arête, in the immediate foreground, standing out of a vast sea of clouds, above which the big peaks alone were visible. There were many other views of rare merit (*e.g.* Nos. 142, 395, 472b, &c.) which cannot be noticed here, and members will be glad to learn that Signor Sella has generously presented to the Club all the enlarged photographs exhibited by him—a magnificent addition to a collection which (as the President remarked in his announcement of the gift) is rapidly becoming unique.\* There were also exhibited some eight oil pictures by Signor Micocci, fulfilling an expectation of long standing. It is not often that we have the opportunity of seeing the work of Italian painters of mountain scenery, and Signor Micocci's pictures were therefore looked upon with considerable interest. He does not aim at hard and striking effects, but he produces careful and accurate studies of pleasant subjects with which we are all familiar.

MAPS OF THE 'GUIDE DU HAUT-DAUPHINÉ.'—We learn that the five maps belonging to this guide-book, which have been unavoidably delayed in preparation, will very shortly be distributed to the subscribers to the book. There is some idea of issuing next spring a supplement to the text of the book, which would contain descriptions of the new ascents and routes effected in the district since the publication of the work in July 1887.

A RECENT ASCENT OF POPOCATEPETL.—On May 11 of this year I made one of the most interesting excursions (outside climbs in the Himalayas) that I ever undertook—the ascent of Popocatepetl, 18,750 feet in height. I left the city of Mexico by an early morning train for a town called Amecameca, situated at the foot of the snow-covered peaks of Popocatepetl and Iztaccihuatl (the Woman in White). Here horses and guides were waiting for me, and at 12.30 I got under weigh and rode up to a little chalet (14,000 feet), where I spent a most miserable night, nearly perishing from cold and fleas. It snowed nearly all night long, but at 4 A.M. it was sufficiently clear to make a start. For an hour we stuck to our horses, and after that began the climb on foot. It was a heartrending grind up steep snow all the way to the crater, but there was not a single difficult or dangerous step. I reached the lower lip of the huge crater at 9 A.M. I have rarely seen anything more terribly grand than this gigantic 'cirque,' the absolutely sheer walls of which descend some 800 or 1,000 feet. Great jets of roaring, hissing steam shoot up in twenty or thirty places, depositing layers of pure sulphur and melting the snow for yards around them. Avalanches of rock and ice were continually falling on all sides. After a rest I continued the ascent (some 800 feet, perhaps), by a broad arête, which led, in about an hour, to the summit. A terrible storm

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\* Copies of the photographs can be obtained from Mr. Spooner, 379 Strand.

of wind and snow was raging, and the cold was almost unbearable. Of course, under these circumstances, I saw nothing from the top, but on descending to the northern rim of the crater it cleared off beautifully, and the most extensive view I ever beheld burst upon me. Opposite, beyond a deep depression, rose Iztaccihuatl, only a few feet lower than her gigantic neighbour, and much more beautiful in form. In fact, Iztaccihuatl looks like the Grand Combin, while Popocatepetl is merely a white cone. Orizaba, a perfect sugar-loaf, towered up a hundred miles away. At my feet, on the left, lay the valley and lakes of Mexico; on the right, that of Puebla. I ran down to the chalet in exactly one hour, and thence returned on horseback to Amecameca before dark. Here a special train was waiting for me and I was whirled back to Mexico the same night. H. R. WHITEHOUSE.

SOME NEW EXPEDITIONS IN THE CHAIN OF MONT BLANC.—Two careful narratives of some important new expeditions in this chain have lately been published, a summary of which will probably be of great interest to our readers. One of them is the ascent of Mont Blanc by perhaps the longest and most circuitous route yet achieved.\* This was achieved by Herr M. Kuffner, with Alexander Burgener, Josef Furrer, and a Swiss porter, though the title of the paper, 'An Ascent of Mont Blanc from the Brenva Glacier,' is a little misleading. From Courmayeur they mainly followed Mr. Freshfield's Col de la Tour Ronde route.† The first night was spent on the rocky ridge (the Mont de la Brenva of Mieulet's map) which separates the eastern arm of the Brenva Glacier from the Glacier de Toule. Starting very early next morning, the party gained without difficulty the point at which this spur joins the main ridge between the Col du Géant and the Mont Maudit. This is a snow hump just south of the Eastern Col de la Tour Ronde, and thus S.E. of the Tour Ronde itself (Reilly's map is correct here; Mieulet's wrongly makes the ridges unite at the Tour Ronde itself). Descending on to the col, the party traversed the northern face of the Tour Ronde peak (a lofty tower of rock) and with great difficulty and danger regained the main ridge beyond, apparently at the point known as the Western Col de la Tour Ronde.‡ The second night was spent just where this ridge was regained, at a height of between 3,500 and 3,600 mètres. The views here were magnificent, but the bivouac place was not the most comfortable that can be imagined. Starting at 5 A.M. on the third day, the party continued their way along the ridge between the Tour Ronde and the Mont Maudit, being obliged to cut many steps in the icy arête and to turn many rock towers, and finally gained the summit of the Mont Maudit at 1.30 P.M. Thence they followed the usual route taken by parties starting from the Aiguille du Midi hut and reached the summit of Mont Blanc at 4 P.M. on the third day after their departure from Courmayeur. In 1½ hour more they reached the Grands Mulets, glad to find so comfortable a resting-place after two nights out. Herr Kuffner considers that the expedition is very

\* *Oesterr. Alpen-Zeitung* for January 11, 25, and February 8, 1889.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. iv. p. 59; vol. v. pp. 231-2.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 384; vol. xii. pp. 120-1.

difficult, and requires settled weather, but does not think it dangerous, for a certain perilous couloir on the northern face of the Tour Ronde can be turned. The article is illustrated by a heliotype (from one of Signor Vittorio Sella's photographs) of the Tour Ronde ridge as seen from the Glacier du Géant. The expedition took place on July 2-4, 1887.

The other new ascents were made in the summer of 1888 among the peaks which close in the head of the great Argentière Glacier, one of the finest and still one of the least known of the great glaciers in the neighbourhood of Chamonix. The party consisted of MM. A. Barbey and L. Kurz, both members of the S. A. C., and their narrative may be found in No. 4 of the 'Echo des Alpes' for 1888. Having bivouacked on the Jardin at the foot of the Arête des Améthystes (which comes down from the Aiguille d'Argentière), these gentlemen, with Justin Bessart, of Chables (Val de Bagnes), and Joseph Simon, of Frasserand (near Argentière), effected on August 11 the first ascent of the peak which rises just where Mieulet's map marks 'Le Darrey' (3,881 mètres), but which is henceforth to be known as the Aiguille de la Neuva, its height being about 3,750 mètres. A first attempt from the col between it and the Aiguille d'Argentière (Messrs. George and Macdonald's Col de la Tour Noire) was unsuccessful, and the party were forced to redescend to the S. foot of the peak, whence by a couloir they climbed straight up to the summit. After enjoying the magnificent panorama they went a short distance down towards the gap between the peak and the Tour Noir, and then rejoined the couloir by which they had come up, the descent to the level of the Argentière glacier occupying 1½ hour. As the peak rises between the Tour Noir and the pass usually known as the Col de la Tour Noire M. Barbey proposes to change the name of this pass to Col des Améthystes, reserving the name Col du Tour Noir for the depression between the peak and the Tour Noir. There seem, however, to be several weighty reasons against this shifting of a well-known name.\* The peak christened Aiguille de la Neuva is scarcely important enough to cause the transfer of the name of Col de la Tour Noire, which has hitherto been universally recognised in Alpine history since the famous crossing of that pass in 1863.† Further, it is rather premature to give any name (that of Col du Tour Noir is proposed) to the as yet untraversed depression between the Aiguille de la Neuva and the Tour Noir. Finally, as the original Col de la Tour Noire leads from the Argentière to the Saleinaz Glacier, while the new one would lead from the former glacier to that of La Neuva, such a complete transfer of names ought not to be made without the consent of the 1863 party, which does not seem to have been asked for. We are therefore inclined to demur to this proposed change, and all the more so because Mr. George (the survivor of the two gentlemen of the 1863 party), to whom a proof of this note was submitted, writes as follows:— 'I fully agree with you. I see no apparent reason for changing the

\* A similar opinion is expressed by the Editor of the new volume of the *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, p. 408.

† See *Alpine Journal*, vol. i. pp. 274-288.

name, nor do I see what business Swiss alone have to change a name which equally belongs to France. The more international a pass the more reason for leaving the first discoverers to decide the name.' (From an editorial note it seems that the Chamonix people speak of 'La Tour Noire,' and this name appears on Mr. Reilly's map; but Swiss climbers have always used the form 'Le Tour Noir,' relying on the analogy of the village of 'Le Tour,' 'Glacier du Tour,' &c.) The same party started next day (August 12) from their bivouac on the Jardin d'Argentière for the first ascent of the Aiguilles Rouges du Dolent (3,665 mètres on Mieulet's map), which rise to the south of the Col d'Argentière. Considerable difficulties were encountered in scaling the rocks on the western flank of the peak, particularly in traversing a deeply cut couloir, and later in forcing a way along a knife-like arête of rock. The summit was thus attained in 9½ hours (halts included) from the bivouac, so that on the return the bivouac was not regained till after 11 P.M. M. Barbey's article is very interesting and contains an account of some genuine Alpine researches in a well-known district. It is illustrated by a phototype of the La Neuva side of the ridge between the Mont Dolent and the Aiguille de la Neuva, and by a cut of the greater part of the Argentière side of the same ridge, while a sketch map (corrected from Mieulet's map) of the N.E. corner of the Argentière Glacier helps us to understand the exact topography of the region. To avoid confusion it may be noted that the name Darrei is now given (on the authority of the great Siegfried map of Switzerland) to a peak of 3,537 mètres, of which the first ascent was made in August 1885 by M. Kurz, starting from the Cabane d'Orny.\* It is situated at a considerable distance N.E. of the Tour Noir (3,824 mètres according to the Siegfried map, 3,843 according to Mieulet's), and is not shown on Mieulet's map, while in Reilly's it is unnamed, but marked at the N. end of the great rocky ridge which divides the Glacier de Truzbuc (called Glacier Darrei on the Siegfried map) from the eastern arm of the La Neuva Glacier.

TWO NOTES ON EARLY MOUNTAINEERING.—In Sebastian Münster's 'Cosmographia Universalis' (originally published in 1543) there is, under the section 'Helvetia' (in book iii. 'De Germania'), a very full and interesting account of the Valais, with most curious illustrations. One chapter, 'De Insignioribus Montibus Valesiæ' (pp. 332-4 of the Basel edition of 1550), deserves the attention of climbers, for it gives a complete list of the passes leading from the Valais in every direction, from the Grimsel and the Furka to the Great St. Bernard and the Gemmi. The following passages refer to glacier passes:—

(1) *Gries and Nufenen*.—'Per Gries et Nyfi patet iter ad Eschenthal [Val d'Ossola], quæ vallis est de ditione Mediolanensi.'† Since the Nufenen leads into the Val Bedretto, as the upper part of the Val Leventina, or Ticino valley, is called, we must suppose that a second pass was also crossed, the Passo di San Giacomo, by which

\* See *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, vol. xxi. pp. 156-163.

† Cf. Stumpf, *Beschreibung der löblichen Eidgenossenschaft*, p. 657 of the 1606 edition; Simler, *Descriptio Vallisæ*, p. 43 of the 1633 edition.

the Gries path down the Val d'Ossola is rejoined not far above Tosa Falls.

(2) *Monte Moro and St. Théodule*.—‘A Vespa extenditur per montem Saser et ab alio latere per montem Matter, ad oppida quædam Mediolanensis ditionis, item ad vallem Kremerthal [Krämerthal is still the German name for the Val Tournanche] quæ paret comiti à Zaland [Challand].’ \*

(3) *Lötschen Pass*.—‘A Raronia versus septentrionem et ad ditionem Bernensium præsertim ad Kandelsteg est quoque iter, sed periculosum, vocaturque mons ille transcendendus Lötschenberg. Aiunt in hoc itinere multos homines singulis annis perire, qui nive obruti in ipsâ nive suffocantur.’†

(4) *Col de Collon*.—‘A Seduno duo opposita itinera ad septentrionem et meridiem extenduntur. Quod ad septentrionem ducit, montem Sanetsch transit, quod vero meridiem versus ducit transmittit per Vallem Urensem [Val d'Hérens] longitudine sex miliariorum, atque per magnum nivolum montem, qui major glacialis et Arolla vocatur, ad Vallem Wapelinam [Val Pellina] quæ ab antiquis Vallis Pœnina appellata est idque ob Hannibalem Pœnum quem putant per hanc vallem iter fecisse in Italiam. Subest autem hæc vallis dominio Augustæ Prætoris [Aosta], hoc est, comiti à Zaland [Challand].’

Stumpf (1546) and Simler (1574) mention the three former sets of passes, adding a few details, while Simler accurately distinguishes between the Gries and the Nüfenen; but Simler (p. 76) seems to pass over No. 4 in silence, while Stumpf (p. 663 b) only says that a pass lies over the glacier, not far from Mons Sylvius, into the Krämerthal or the Aosta valley.

On turning over the very curious and interesting pages of the first edition (1793) of Ebel's ‘Anleitung auf die nützlichste und genussvollste Art in der Schweiz zu reisen’ (the great Swiss guide-book of the days before Murray) I was considerably startled to read in the account of the Valley of Chamonix the following remarkable passage (vol. ii. p. 36), which I translate as literally as I can. It occurs in a description of the view from the Montenvers: ‘Then follows the *Jorasse*, and still more to the south-west one catches sight of a very lofty and slender rock peak; this is the *Géant* or *Mallet*, which in 1786 was climbed from Courmayeur (which lies six or seven hours lower down) by an Englishman, under the guidance of *Maria Coutet*. Near the *Géant*, or the *Col de Géant*, M. de Saussure spent sixteen days at a height of 10,578 feet above the sea.’ There is thus a clear distinction made between the peak and the pass, and I fancied for a moment that Mr. Graham and Signori Sella had been anticipated by nearly a hundred years. In the second edition of the book (1804, vol. ii. p. 191), however, this ascent is reduced to a passage of the Col du Géant, though the point visited is called ‘the *Géant*,’ and it is only in the French translation of the third edition (1810) that we find it distinctly called the ‘Col du Géant.’ It is, in fact, an allusion to Mr.

\* Cf. Stumpf, p. 660, and Simler, p. 56.

† Cf. Stumpf, p. 661, and Simler, p. 62.

Hill's exploit in 1786, the first recorded passage of the col by a traveller.\*

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

RESULTS OF THE NEW ITALIAN SURVEY OF THE EASTERN ALPS.—In several recent numbers† we gave the results of the new Austrian survey of the Eastern Alps. The following list (taken from the 'Rivista Mensile' of the Italian Alpine Club for May 1889, pp. 136–40) contains the provisional results of the Italian survey of the Italian portions of that district, and serves both as a supplement and a contrast :—

|                           | Mètres. |                       | Mètres. |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Königsspitze . . .        | 3,860   | Marmolata . . .       | 3,344   |
| Monte Cevedale . . .      | 3,778   | Cima di Vezzana . . . | 3,194   |
| Monte Zebbru . . .        | 3,740   | Antelao . . .         | 3,263   |
| Pallon della Mare . . .   | 3,707   | Tofana . . .          | 3,241   |
| Punta di San Malteo . . . | 3,685   | Civetta . . .         | 3,220   |
| Thurwieserspitze . . .    | 3,652   | Sorapiss . . .        | 3,206   |
| Monte Vioz . . .          | 3,639   | Pelmo . . .           | 3,169   |
| Monte Saline . . .        | 3,613   | Monte Cristallo . . . | 3,153   |
| Tuckettspitze . . .       | 3,469   | Zwölferkofel . . .    | 3,095   |
| Stelvio Pass . . .        | 2,756   | Drei Zinnen . . .     | 3,000   |
| Adamello . . .            | 3,554   | Marmarole . . .       | 2,933   |
| Lobbia Alta . . .         | 3,418   | Paralba . . .         | 2,694   |
| Lobbia Bassa . . .        | 3,315   |                       |         |

The height assigned to the Cristallo (3,153 mètres) differs so much from that obtained by the new Austrian survey (3,199 mètres) that it has been suggested that the former figures really belong to the Piz Popena (3,143 mètres according to the new Austrian survey).

## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

*The Alps.* By F. Umlauf. Translated by Louisa Brough. (Kegan Paul, 1889. Large 8vo. pp. xii.–523. 25s.)

A FULL description and criticism of this work in its original German dress has already appeared in these pages.‡ It now comes before us in a well-printed English version. The translator informs us in her Preface that the text has been abridged in certain parts and that the very copious references in the notes to the literature of each branch of the subject have been omitted. Now the latter formed one of the most valuable features in the original, so that the abridgment deprives the reader of several valuable tables and of other useful details. In both cases the changes might be justified if the translator's hope that the work may appeal successfully to 'general readers' were to any extent realised; but we much fear that it cannot possibly be, for the only persons likely to consult this bulky production would certainly have

\* See Mr. Freshfield's account of the pass (*A. J.*, ix. 22–4, where in the notes on p. 23 for '1793' read '1773,' and for 'i. 106' read 'iii. 106,' the passage in question appearing in the 1785 edition of Bourrit's work, not in that of 1781) and M. Durier's very full discussion of the subject (*ibid.* 87–9).

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. pp. 61, 252–3, 327.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. xiii. pp. 281–3.