way, which is immediately round the corner of the Strahlhorn, on a narrow shelf of rocks, and, as far as I could see —not very far—it did not appear very difficult. But this year it was unapproachable, on account of the curling drift of snow, which overhung all the crest of the pass. The unseen descent may be very difficult. Victor had reconnoitred it from Pedriolo, and could not make out how or where it was to be made.*

August 31.—Another cloudless morning. Inn at Zermatt improved: better wine, cooking; and new rooms built, excellent bed, and altogether quite comfortable.†

(*To be continued.*)

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1889.

Mont Blanc Group.

Pic or Aiguille du Tacul.—This was ascended three times in July last from the Glacier de Léchaud by a small tributary glacier, which has for its southern boundary the ridge on which the Capucin Rock is. This glacier is called by the authoress of 'The High Alps in Winter' the Glacier du Capucin. From the *bergschrund*, at the head of it, the route is straight up the rocks to the peak, without touching the snow couloir leading to the Col du Tacul, described in the abovenamed book. About 6 hrs. from the Montanvers suffices for the ascent, and the descent may well be made by either of the well-known routes. This variation, which does not seem to have been recorded, is strongly recommended, as both the glacier and rocks, without being difficult, are decidedly of a more interesting nature than those leading direct from the Lac du Tacul or by way of the Glacier des Périades; it also affords a greater variety of scenery, including a near view of the Capucin Rock.

The first of these ascents was made by Messrs. J. W. Wicks and E. W. Henderson on July 19.

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* [It may be well to recall here that Mr. Malkin, in his notes sent to these pages in 1880 (see *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. pp. 44, 45), points out that Damatter's route would have led to Mattmark and not to Macugnaga. Dr. Schulz thinks that this pass lay further to the south, and would have led to Macugnaga (*S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xviii. p. 179), but Mr. Conway's view (*Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 202), that it was really the Rofel Pass, seems to be the true solution of the puzzle.]

† [Mr. Malkin sent a revised copy of his notes on the passes he crossed in 1843 to the third edition of Murray's *Handbook for Switzerland*—published in 1846—and it is well worth while comparing the two versions, which correct and supplement each other.]

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Dolomites.

CIMONE DELLA PALA (10,450 feet).—On July 22 Messrs. H. H. West, A. C. O'Sullivan, and G. Scriven, accompanied by Michele Bettega and G. Zecchini, of Primiero, left San Martino at 2.15 A.M. and followed the path for the Cima di Rosetta till 3.45; bearing then to the left, they reached a small col to the N. of the Rosetta pass at 4.30, and the rocks below and to the N. of the Travignolo pass at 4.45, where they halted till 4.55. Climbing these rocks, which are everywhere easy, they arrived at 5.45 on the small snow plateau on the W. face of the Cimone della Pala, which is just visible from San Martino, and lies below two conspicuous rock towers on the S. arête. Here they halted for breakfast till 6.20, and then climbed round the base of the second (or northern) tower on to the E. face of the Cimone. Here the rocks are very rotten, owing apparently to the presence of iron, which seems to be percolated through the Dolomite by water, producing the patches of bright red colour, so conspicuous on some of these peaks. (Croda Rossa exhibits this remarkable phenomenon in great perfection on the precipice facing Schluderbach, where it has been suggested that a giant pig might have been killed, so crimson are the stains. On this mountain, too, the corroding effects of the iron-saturated water are very apparent in the production of some extremely crumbling rocks.)

Traversing the E. face horizontally for a short distance, they soon saw on their left the deep nick in the S. arête (conspicuous from San Martino) whence Herr Darmstädter (who had made the first ascent* by this route a few days before, and had very kindly given full instruction to Dr. Scriven's party) had climbed to the crest of the arête. Owing to some misunderstanding they passed this little col and, continuing across the E. face of the mountain, came to a narrow rock gully running up towards the arête, and of most tempting appearance at first sight. They found, however, that it was completely filled with ice, and that much time would have to be spent in attempting to ascend it. Probably, later in the season, when this gully would be free from ice, it would prove the shortest and safest way of gaining the S. arête. Finding this route impracticable, there was nothing for it but to make the best of their way up the precipices of the E. face. Here, for more than 2 hrs., they scrambled up very steep rocks of various degrees of rottenness, peppered over so thickly with loose stones, that it required extreme caution to avoid dislodging showers on the heads of those below; for, from some mysterious reason, Michele insisted that all five should be together on the rope, a fashion by no means conducive to comfort in such a place. At last, to their great relief, they reached the arête at 8.50, and at 9.15 stood on the summit. Here, as usual in the Dolomites, a delightful hour was spent; though distant views were much obscured by mist, beautiful glimpses of the San Martino valley were to be caught, and the eye seemed to look down the chimneys of the hotel.

* See p. 161.

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In descending they determined to follow Herr Darmstädter's instructions better, and accordingly kept along the arête to the edge of an almost vertical rock-wall, which faces S.E. and descends to the little col passed in the morning. Here Zecchini, who was leading, spent a long time in searching for a way down the rocks, which he at length found; and by the aid of 120 feet of rope they descended, one at a time, to the rocks just below the W. side of the col. Michele, who came last, had great trouble in getting down safely, though minus his boots, as the last 20 ft. was very difficult. Each of the party was 7 min. in descending this 120 ft. of rock, which is decidedly the most difficult part of the route, though by no means so dangerous as the E. face. The little col was left at 12.50, the San Martino side of the Cimone reached at 1.10, and the hotel at 4.10 P.M.

Norway.

GJURATIND FROM EIKIDALSVAND.—This fine peak, which was first ascended by Mr. W. J. Napier, in 1884, from the Isfjord side, was climbed for the first time from Hoem on Eikidalsvand by the Rev. F. M. Beaumont, and Messrs. A. Bill, R. B. Caldicott, and R. A. Rotherham, on July 29, 1889. The ascent was made by the southern arête, which gave some good climbing.

They were delayed by mists, and obliged to descend the same way, but it would be easy to descend either to the Isfjord or to Utigaard. Aslak Overaas (from Overaas) and Christopher Vike (from Vike) accompanied the party, and will both make excellent guides.

Kristian Vike (from Overaas), a lad, who asked to come for pleasure, was also with them, and climbed very well.

ALPINE NOTES.

LEPONTINE ALPS.—Mr. Archibald J. Mackey writes, 'It was my good fortune, in company with my friend Mr. H. F. Dickens, to spend a few very fine days in August last in walking from the falls of Tosa, by way of the Neufelgin pass, the Colle di Vanin, Alpe Devera, and Alpe di Veglia, to Isella, on the Simplon route. It is a beautiful and interesting walk, well suited to the middle-aged pedestrian, but too long for such a person to accomplish in one day. We therefore—I at least belonging to the class of walkers just mentioned—spent the night at Al Ponte, on Alpe Devera, a spot of great beauty in itself and surrounded by alps more beautiful than any I know elsewhere. Al Ponte would be a delightful spot for a sojourn of some days or weeks for ladies and others who are not ambitious of doing high work, but still want walking. Even the "emeritus" division of the Alpine Club would, I think, find plenty of moderate and interesting climbing in that district among the mountains which stretch from the Ofenhorn to Monte Leone; but, alas! there is no comfortable hostelry. Baedeker, in his latest edition, stars an inn at Al Ponte, but after spending a night there we felt justified in writing to Herr Baedeker and telling him

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