on a cloudless day under the seaward skirts of the great chain, the peaks and glaciers of which are visible from ship-board, was most enjoyable. At Batum I parted with much regret from Captain Powell, whose knowledge of Russian and genial companionship—to say nothing of his energy and experience in camp—had been of the greatest value to the search-party, and above all to myself on my farther journey.*

The High-Level Routes of the Caucasus.

Early explorers soon learnt that the horse-passes N. of the Central Caucasus are many of them dull. High-level routes were greatly wanted, and have now been found. Taking Karaoul, accessible from the S. by easy passes, as well as from the N. valleys, as the most central spot in the chain, high-level routes W. may be made as follows:—

I. (1) The Dychsu (or Shkara) Pass to the Bezingi Glacier.
(2) The Zanner Pass to Mulach in Suanetia.
(3) Mr. Mummery's Pass from the Thuber Glacier to the Gvalda Glacier.
(4) The Cheteen Tau Pass to the Shichildi Glacier, the upper Baksan, and the foot of Elbruz.

Travellers who wish to keep above the tree-level may combine with the Zanner a pass from the upper névé of the Zanner Glacier over the spur of Tiktingen to the Thuber, discovered by Mr. Cockin this year.

II. (1) The Ullu-auz Pass from Karaoul to Dumala.
(2) The Mishirgi Pass to the Mishirgi Glacier.
(3) A pass to be made N. of our Saluinan Chiran Pass† to the Chaourtu Glacier and Chegem Valley.
(4) Either of the passes recently made to the Adyrsu; thence to Urusbieh, or over
(5) A pass, easy but new, to the Adylsu and Elbruz.

A high-level route E. from Karaoul may be made as follows:—

I. (1) The Stule-vsek (horse pass) to Styr Digor.
(2) A *new* pass from the Karagam Glacier to the Cea Glacier.
(3) Our pass from the Cea Glacier to Mamisson Road.

Or—

II. (1) Karaoul over Pasi Mta to Rion and Gebi.
(2) Over Gebi-vsek to Styr Digor or Gurdzie-vsek to Karagam Glacier, and on as in first route.

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* A very interesting article on 'The Abkhasian Insurrection' will be found in the late Mr. Gifford Palgrave's *Essays on Eastern Questions*. The writer was vice-consul at Sukhum for a short time. Sukhum is now a station of the Anglo-Indian telegraph, and two English telegraphists are stationed there. It has a fair hotel.

† I consider this pass, which I described in detail to the Club, too hazardous for general use—at any rate in the direction in which we took it—owing to the constant fall of stones on the W. side.

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It seems to me nearly time for a skeleton guide-book for mountaineers in the Caucasus to be prepared. It would be a suitable piece of work for an energetic craftsman content to lay foundations for others to build on. I am not without hope that one of the yearly increasing band of Caucasian climbers may be found before long to act on this suggestion.

An official guide-book to the Caucasus has recently appeared in Russian; but, according to M. de Dechy, the mountains are left out—at least, from a mountaineer's point of view.

Note on Illustration.

The prominent mountains comprised in the panoramic view (from right to left) are Dongusorun, Elbruz, the Ciubikevi peak (a rock-tooth), and Otur, immediately below which, just outside the plate, lies the first of the forest passes. Some of the valleys of Lower Suanetia may be distinguished in the right-hand lower corner. The rock-ridges that meet in the Ciubikevi peak surround the head of tho Betsho valley; the N. joins the main chain W. of and close to Dongusorun. This tract was grossly misrepresented in the 5-verst map. Between the Cuibikevi peak and Otur lies the Nakra Valley.

The rocky ridge in the foreground is a long spur which divides the western glaciers and valley of the Leila from the valley of the Ingur.

Exhausted Districts.

BY W. M. CONWAY.

> To give room for wandering is it
> That the world was made so wide.
>
> CARLYLE *after* Goethe.

ON August 13, 1890, I and my guide, Joseph Marie Lochmatter, were staying at the Montenvers Hotel. We were to cross the Col des Hirondelles next day in company of others eastward bound. Every one in the hôtel was sick to death with the *ennui* that pervades all 'centres.' Two or three fine days, and then one bad day: a succession of this kind of thing drives the 'centrist' distracted. First-rate peaks (as they are called) will not come into condition under such circumstances, and the second-rate have no charms for the centrist. So he sits and swears till he can endure it no longer; and sooner or later comes the day when he, knowingly and of malice prepense, starts off to climb rocks which in such weather no one ought to touch—

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