

any point in the valley. Roodeberg (7100 ft.) is easily reached from the former mountain, and Groot Hoek (6860 ft.) in turn can be done from Roodeberg, the three forming the huge amphitheatre overlooking the precipices of Groot Kloof. Slightly to the E. and some two hours distant is a fine mountain almost isolated, called Zonklip Berg (6974 ft.), so named by the farmers in the valley, as their first sight of the rising sun is seen on the upper crags of this mountain. It is a good trip to make; some excellent cragwork can be found on its extensive face.

There are several others which might be described, but I would be encroaching too much on the valuable space of our JOURNAL.

P.S.—The following is a translation of some of the Dutch names used :

De Doorns	.	.	.	.	The Thorns,
Keeromsberg	.	.	.	.	Turnabout Mountain.
Berg	.	.	.	.	Mountain.
Kloof	.	.	.	.	Ravine.
Bosch	.	.	.	.	Bush.
Buffels	.	.	.	.	Buffalo.
Zanddrift	.	.	.	.	Sandy Ford.
Bokkeveld	.	.	.	.	Goat Pasture.
Kopje	.	.	.	.	Rocky Hill.
Zonklip	.	.	.	.	Sun Rock.
Roodeberg	.	.	.	.	Red Mountain.

A TRAVERSE OF THE PIZZI DI PALÜ, BELLAVISTA, AND
PIZ ZUPÔ.

BY O. K. WILLIAMSON.

THE end of July 1913 found my wife and myself at Pontresina. In the Ortler district the weather had been abominable during the past few weeks of that month. At Sulden snow fell frequently, and the quantity of snow on the mountains was so unusually great that simple expeditions like the Tschenglsler Hochwand and Monte Confine became quite respectable climbs.

In consequence of this evil fortune and the resulting ' wait

and see' or do-nothing policy, which, however congenial to some politicians, is exceedingly distasteful to the self-respecting mountaineer, I had become increasingly keen on a good climb, and had in fact planned the traverse of the Scerscen and Bernina. However, 'homme propose et Dieu dispose,' for on descending from the Bernina Pass the icy armour on the Crast' Agüzza revealed by a glimpse up the Morteratsch valley made it necessary to revise this plan. A pleasant meeting with my old friend Josef Lochmatter was the cause of my engaging as guide Johann Gross, and on his recommendation, as the weather at last bid fair to mend its ways, I decided if time should permit to traverse the ridge from the E. summit of the Pizzi di Palü to the Piz Zupô. I was glad to engage Johann's elder brother Domenic, who offered himself as porter.

On the beautiful afternoon of July 29 Johann and I took an afternoon train to the Bernina houses, and from there a cool stroll up the path and across snow led us to the Diavolezza inn. A comfortable night followed, and next morning, having been joined by Domenic, who had walked up from Pontresina during the night, we started at 3.30 A.M. in weather conditions which were all that could be wished for, closely followed by other parties bound for the Palü. A short descent, followed by a traverse round the E. side of the rocks beyond Piz Trovat, and we reached the Pers glacier, and hereabouts put on the rope. We gradually ascended, and, having passed beneath some distinctly threatening séracs on Piz Cambrena, reached the foot of the snow-slopes leading up to the Fuorcla Pers-Palü. In the course of the ascent of these slopes a halt for breakfast was made. Soon after this we reached the N.E. arête of the Pizzi di Palü, well above the Fuorcla, and welcome sunshine. The snow was perfect, though fairly steep; one blow with the adze end of the axe was all that was necessary. The ridge was broad, and at 7.28 A.M. we stepped on to the E. summit, (3889 m., 12,760 ft.). We were most fortunate in the weather, and as one looked eastward towards the Ortler group on this day of marvellous and rare beauty one experienced the vivid sensation of being in a world far indeed removed from that of every-day life. In the opposite direction the steep flanks of the Zupô looked an immense distance away. After a short rest we followed the ridge, mostly of snow, over the central or highest peak (3912 m., 12,835 ft.).

Scanning the western limits of view, a thrill passed through me as far away—about 100 miles—beyond a sea of blue foothills, distinct yet softened by distance, there soared majestically

the ever graceful spear-points of the Saas-grat peaks with flanks draped in mantle of creamy white. Such moments as these are indeed more than worth the double journey to the Alps.

The ridge here became narrow, and in places its sides fell steeply away, the angle of the snow-slopes on the Pontresina side being most impressive. Rocks cropped out here and there before we reached the W. summit (3825 m., 12,550 ft.). My cheery companions, excellent fellows and most capable guides both, led by turns, and pleasant rocks with a little snow brought us to the Fuorcla Bellavista at 8.57 A.M., and we again halted. Before leaving this point we were joined by the other parties, which from here were to descend to Pontresina. We now followed the broad easy ridge to the E. peak of Bellavista (3800 m., 12,468 ft.), and we continued along the arête, mostly of snow, over the next two summits (3893 m., 12,773 ft., and 3894 m., 12,776 ft.). These three peaks are, as stated in Major Strutt's 'The Alps of the Bernina,' Part II., merely little snow mounds.

The gracefully curved ridge now became narrow and showed here and there a little rock. About this time, to judge from an incident which occurred, one of my companions was apparently desirous of determining by actual experiment the weight-carrying properties of a south-bending cornice. Proof that care was needed was in fact amply present. On this Bellavista ridge the snow on the northern slopes was excellent, but was in marked contrast to that on the southern side, where it was distinctly avalanchy.

Soon after reaching the top of the highest or S.W. peak (3927 m., 12,884 ft.) we halted at 10.53 A.M. The view of the S. sides of the Bernina, Scerscen, and Roseg seen from here was new to me and interesting, but even more majestic was the Disgrazia

' . . . Your mountain of old,
With his rents, the successive bequeathings of ages untold.'

From here we descended firm rocks, affording pleasant climbing, including a S. partly snow traverse, and so reached at 11.45 A.M. the Zupò Pass. From this point the ridge, which had hitherto run in a direction, roughly speaking, W. or S.W., bends abruptly southwards, and we started up the N. ridge of our last and highest peak. We climbed on the crest of the arête on rocks which were in one place pitched at a high angle. My leading guide disappeared above. 'Are you firm, Johann?' 'Yes, come on.' (Although Johann speaks the German language,

in deference to my readers' and my own susceptibilities, I give the words in English!) Some loose blocks demanded care, but the work could not be called difficult. These rocks gave place to snow, which finally led in a gently rising arête to the culminating point of Piz Zupô (4002 m., 13,131 ft.) at 12.30 P.M. Here we basked in the sun and enjoyed the glorious view. Twenty-five minutes later we started down the W. face. This was steep at first; our route lay over snow and rocks, some of which were loose. A little ice ill-covered by snow led us over the filled-up bergschrund to the Fuorcla Zupô route. We descended the glacier, traversing to the right just S. of the point 3228 m., so as to join the lower part of the 'Loch' route,¹ and, helped by some pleasant glissades, reached the lower-level glacier. Here we freed ourselves from the encumbrance of the rope. We strolled down the Morteratsch glacier. My companions went to investigate the new Boval hut whilst I proceeded alone, reaching the tourist haunts and the Morteratsch restaurant at 4.55 P.M.

The total length of the expedition was 13 hrs. 25 min.; the actual time of walking 10 hrs. 52 min., of which 3 hrs. 45 min. were consumed between the first and last peak.² Had I been in better training probably from one hour to one-and-a-half hour could have been taken off the time.

It will be gathered from the description that the expedition is by no means difficult; in fact it may be doubted whether there exists in the Alps a ridge of this length at so great a height—it nowhere falls below 12,000 feet—which is so easy. Hardly any obstacle was met with which was not overcome by a direct frontal attack.

If the captious Alpine critic should complain of the want of incident in the above narrative, I can only retort that this is a necessary consequence of the admirable state of repair of the ridge, doubtless due to the industry of the local authorities.

PROJECT OF A TUNNEL TO THE SUMMIT OF THE MATTERHORN
IN 1859.

WHILE turning over the pages of some old volumes of the *Gazette du Valais* of Sion, in the Municipal Library of Berne recently, I was surprised to find in the number for October 20, 1859, an article entitled 'A Project of an Ascent

¹ *The Alps of the Bernina* (Strutt), Part II., p. 115.

² *A.J.* xxvii. p. 451.