

**PEAKS, PASSES, AND GLACIERS.**

**SECOND SERIES.**

**VOL. I.**

LONDON  
PRINTED BY SPOTTISWOODE AND CO.  
NEW-STREET SQUARE



ICICLE CREVASSE ON THE BERNINA.

# PEAKS, PASSES, AND GLACIERS;

BEING

EXCURSIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

SECOND SERIES.

EDITED BY

EDWARD SHIRLEY KENNEDY, M.A. F.R.G.S.

PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB.



*Vesci aurâ ætherâ jucundum vertice montis,  
Ardua respicere, et dextram conjungere dextræ.*

IN TWO VOLUMES — VOL. I.

LONDON:

LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, AND ROBERTS.

1862.

## PREFACE.

---

THREE years have passed since the appearance of the First Series of "Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers." Its publication was thought a bold experiment, inasmuch as the writers were mountain climbers and not experienced Authors. The success, however, was complete. The work evidently appealed to feelings, wide spread among the nation, and shared, even by those who had never been actors in adventures such as were narrated in the book. The favour with which the First Series was received has encouraged the members of the Alpine Club again to endeavour to interest a wide circle of readers. The taste for these adventures is becoming more extended; the Club has doubled the number of its members since the publication of their first volume, and the increase in the number of new ascents, new passes, and new adventures, involving a far wider range of exploration, have rendered necessary a corresponding increase in the number of the narratives. Thirty-two, instead of seventeen, narratives, written by twenty-three, instead of sixteen writers, is the result.

The work begins with an account of an extensive tour in Iceland, by Messrs. Holland and Shepherd, in districts, a large portion of which has been visited by no Englishman except Henderson (whose journey took place fifty years ago), since whom no stranger has traversed them, except some French travellers, under M. Gaimard, about twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that Mr. Holland's narrative of this expedition, will incite other members of the Club, still further to explore the unknown districts, to which the Vice-President last year directed attention, and that the blank in the map of Iceland may speedily be filled up. It is remarkable, that all the travellers who last year visited Iceland wish to return there, and, indeed, before these pages meet the eye of the public, Mr. Shepherd, accompanied by two friends, will again be on his way to Iceland, with the intention of making a much more extensive exploration of that interesting island.

These volumes contain no less than nine accounts of ascents of mountains never before ascended, and most of which were deemed inaccessible. The Shreekhorn, an attempted ascent of which, by Mr. Anderson, was recorded in the previous volume, was scaled by Mr. Stephen; the Aletschhorn yielded to Mr. Tuckett, after a persevering attempt, begun under most unpromising circumstances; and the Lyskamm was ascended by Mr. Hardy, accompanied by

seven other mountaineers, in addition to the guides. It seems that this last ascent may now, under favourable circumstances, be considered one of the usual first-class excursions from Zermatt, inasmuch as the difficulty of the ascent is not excessive, the view from the summit is scarcely inferior to that from Monte Rosa, and the glacier scenery equals that of any of the most formidable expeditions. The Grivola, Mr. King's description of which excited so much curiosity, was climbed by Mr. Ormsby; and its neighbour, the Grand Paradis, was ascended by Mr. Cowell, who recommends it as the finest and most feasible initiation into the glories of Alpine altitudes that can be undertaken by the mountaineering tyro. The Nord End, the only previously unreachd summit of the Monte Rosa chain, has been ascended by Sir T. Fowell Buxton and his brother. The Thierberg, near the Susten Pass, a mountain of no great difficulty, but yet never before ascended, was climbed by Mr. Forster, and may be recommended as a mountain commanding magnificent views of glacier scenery.

There now remain to be noticed, the ascents of three mountains in districts not comprehended within the usual range of Swiss tourists. These are, Mont Pelvoux, in Dauphiné; Monte Viso, in Sardinia; and the Bernina, in the Ober-Engadin. No little perseverance and skill were required to

surmount the difficulties of these mountains. Some of the inconveniences experienced by Mr. Whymper, in his ascent of the Pelvoux, may probably be avoided by profiting by his experience; but, until Dauphiné has become a more constant resort of tourists, the inconveniences arising from bad guides and execrable inns, will render the exploration of its mountains a matter of far greater difficulty than the usual Swiss climbing. Monte Viso has long attracted the admiration of visitors to Turin — it was felt that it would command a magnificent view, but it was deemed inaccessible — and Mr. Mathews' account of his successful ascent will therefore, it is believed, be read with much interest. The Bernina had been ascended by Herr Coaz, and by Herr Saratz, the President of the Ober-Engadin, but by no other person, except his guides. The ascent of this mountain by Mr. Hardy and myself, was therefore considered in the district as an event of great moment, and, as will be seen in the narrative, was celebrated by the inhabitants in an appropriate manner. The Matterhorn is now nearly the only remaining giant in the great central mass of the Alps, who still remains unconquered, and it is hoped that, this summer, he too may yield.

Ten new passes are described in these volumes, which will be found of much practical utility and interest, in enabling mountaineers to explore many

magnificent districts previously unknown, and to pass from one to another over glorious scenery hitherto unvisited.

The High-Level Glacier Route, wholly avoiding the ordinary roads, either by Aosta, or Martigny, and embracing seven of these new passes, connects the two centres of attraction, Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa.

The Col de Lys and the Col des Jumeaux afford new routes from the Zermatt district to the Italian valleys on the south of the Monte Rosa range, and the Eiger Joch connects the Wengern Alp with the Rhone Valley by the Aletsch Glacier.

The papers of Messrs. Mathews and Tuckett on the Graian Alps give, it is believed, a tolerably complete account of that little known district, and correct some important topographical errors in its received geography. Mr. Mathews has accomplished the destruction of a mountain, which has existed (in maps only) for about fifty years. Mont Iseran, a name which on the Sardinian maps has hitherto represented the culminating point of the Tarentaise, must be expunged from all maps, since its non-existence as a mountain peak is now completely proved.

A short notice is given of the various instruments used in the practice of Hypsometry, and of the methods adopted in carrying out this important branch of natural philosophy, and the result of some slight

observations upon Glacial Dirt Bands, and the unequal distribution of Ozone, is offered more by way of suggestion to future observers than as an explanation of the subject.

The work concludes with a Table of Heights, which has been compiled with great care, and, it is believed, with tolerable accuracy. So far as it extends, this Table, it is hoped, will be found a more complete list than is elsewhere to be met with of the principal Swiss and Pyrenean "Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers."

The Maps have been taken from existing authorities as far as possible; but where these are erroneous, the necessary corrections have been introduced from observations made by the traveller. They have been engraved by Mr. Edward Weller.

The illustrations are principally from sketches made by the writers themselves, and, when desirable, the routes are indicated by dotted lines. Fifty-three have been engraved under the superintendence of Mr. Edward Whymper, and three under that of Mr. George Pearson.

E. S. KENNEDY.

MAIDENHEAD: *April* 1862.

# CONTENTS

## OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

---

### CHAPTER I.

#### A TOUR IN ICELAND IN THE SUMMER OF 1861.

BY E. T. HOLLAND, B.A.

	PAGE
1. FROM SCOTLAND TO REYKJA-VIK, AND THENCE TO RAUDNEF-STADR . . . . .	3
2. FROM RAUDNEF-STADR ACROSS THE LESS FREQUENTED DISTRICTS ON THE W. OF THE SKAPTAR JOKULL TO MARIU-BAKKI . . . . .	18
3. PASSAGE OF THE SKEIDARA.—THE ORCEFA JOKULL.—SOUTH OF THE VATNA JOKULL TO BERU-FJÖRÐR . . . . .	20
4. FROM BERU-FJÖRÐR, BY WAY OF BRÚ, MY-VATN, AND SURTS-HELLIR, BACK TO REYKJA-VIK . . . . .	81

### CHAPTER II.

#### THE OBER-ENGADIN.

1. PONTRESINA TO CHIESA, IN THE VAL MALENCA; PASS OF THE ROSEGG GLACIER AND COL DI SCERSEN; TOUR OF THE BERNINA. By Arthur Milman, M.A. . . . .	131
2. ASCENT OF THE PIZZO BERNINA. By Edward Shirley Kennedy, M.A. . . . .	146

### CHAPTER III.

#### THE CHAMOUNIX DISTRICT.

1. THE PASSAGES OF THE GLACIER DU TOUR AND OF THE COL DE MIAGE. By J. G. Dolson, M.P. . . . .	189
2. NARRATIVE OF THE ACCIDENT ON THE COL DE MIAGE IN JULY 1861. By the Rev. Charles Hudson, M.A. . . . .	208

## CHAPTER IV.

## THE HIGH-LEVEL GLACIER ROUTE FROM CHAMOUNIX TO ZERMATT.

	PAGE
1. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS. By Frederick William Jacomb . . . . .	227
2. THE COL D'ARGENTIÈRE, FROM CHAMOUNIX TO ST. PIERRE. By Stephen Winkworth . . . . .	231
3. THE COL DU SONADON FROM ST. PIERRE TO THE TOP OF THE COL. By Frederick William Jacomb . . . . .	241
4. THE COL DU SONADON FROM THE TOP OF THE COL TO CHERMONTANE. By the Rev. J. F. Hardy, B.D. . . . .	252
5. THE COL DU SONADON FROM THE TOP OF THE COL TO VALPELLINA AND PRERAYEN. By Frederick William Jacomb . . . . .	259
6. THE COL DE CHERMONTANE FROM CHERMONTANE TO AROLLA. By Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart. M.A. . . . .	273
7. THE COL DE LA REUSE DE L'AROLLA FROM CHERMONTANE TO PRERAYEN. By F. F. Tuckett, F.R.G.S. . . . .	287
8. THE COL DE LA VALPELLINE FROM PRERAYEN TO ZERMATT. By Frederick William Jacomb . . . . .	306

## CHAPTER V.

## THE PEAKS, PASSES, AND GLACIERS OF THE MONTE ROSA CHAIN.

1. THE ASCENT OF THE BREITHORN. By Edward Schweitzer . . . . .	343
2. THE COL DE LYS. By William Mathews, Jun., M.A. . . . .	359
3. THE ASCENT OF THE LYSKAMM. By John Frederick Hardy, B.D. . . . .	383
4. THE COL DES JUMEAUX. By William Mathews, Jun., M.A. . . . .	397
5. THE ASCENT OF THE NORD END. By Edward N. Buxton . . . . .	412

## CHAPTER VI.

## THE NORIC ALPS.

1. THE GERMAN ALPS. By William Brinton, M.D. . . . .	425
2. THE ASCENT OF THE GROSS GLOCKNER. By William Brinton, M.D. . . . .	429

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

## IN THE FIRST VOLUME.

### MAPS.

1. South-Eastern part of Iceland ( <i>double</i> ) . . . . .	<i>to face page</i>	3
2. The Pizzo Bernina . . . . .	”	131
3. The District between Mont Blanc and the Col du Bonhomme . . . . .	”	189
4. The High Level Route from Chamounix to Zermatt . . . . .	”	227
5. . . . .	”	273
6. . . . .	”	306
7. The Monte Rosa District ( <i>double</i> ) . . . . .	”	343
8. The Gross Glockner and its vicinity ( <i>double</i> ) . . . . .	”	425

### WOODCUTS.

	PAGE
1. Icicle Crevasse, from a sketch by E. S. Kennedy . . . . .	<i>Frontispiece.</i>
2. The Raud-holt, Iceland, from a sketch by E. T. Holland . . . . .	27
3. The Orœfa Jökull, Iceland, from the plateau above Knappa-vellir, from a sketch by E. T. Holland . . . . .	50
4. The Orœfa Jökull, from Reyni-vellir, from a sketch by E. T. Holland . . . . .	67
5. The Kláfr at Bru, Iceland, from a sketch by E. T. Holland . . . . .	86
6. Herdu-breid, from Krabla, Iceland, from a sketch by E. T. Holland . . . . .	96
7. Hver-fjall, from a sketch by E. T. Holland . . . . .	102
8. The Lava-field of Surts-Hellir, from a sketch by Capt. C. Campbell . . . . .	110
9. Entrance to the Second Portion of Surts-Hellir, from a sketch by Capt. C. Campbell . . . . .	112
10. The Lang Jökull, Iceland, from a sketch by Capt. C. Campbell . . . . .	<i>to face</i> 115
11. View from Boval, looking South, from a sketch by E. S. Kennedy . . . . .	159

	PAGE
12. Outline sketch of the Col de Miage, by F. F. Tuckett . . . . .	211
13. Col de Sonadon, from a sketch by F. W. Ja omb . . . . .	<i>to face</i> 246
14. Natural Pillars on the Gorge of the Dard, from a sketch by F. W. Jacomb	262
15. Head of the Valpelline, from a sketch by Edward Whymper . . . . .	317
16. The Matterhorn, from the Col de la Dent Blanche, from a sketch by F. F. Tuckett . . . . .	337
17. The Matterhorn, from the summit of the Stockhi, from a sketch by F. F. Tuckett . . . . .	337
18. The Lyskamm, from Gressoney St. Jean, from a sketch by W. Mathews, jun.	359
19. The Lyskamm, from the Gorner-grat, from a photograph . . . . .	<i>to face</i> 383
20. Monte Rosa, from the Gorner-grat, from a photograph . . . . .	<i>to face</i> 416
21. The Gross Glockner, from a sketch by William Brinton, M.D. . . . .	427
22. The Chamois, from a sketch by William Brinton, M.D. . . . .	444