

the southern faces of the Albaron and Pointe de Séa. Should they turn out to be inaccessible on that side, he can make his way to Forno, and attack them from the Col de Séa.

THE COL TOURNANCHE. BY J. A. HUDSON, B.A.

ONE day during the month of August 1861, the Rev. J. F. Hardy and I took leave of a party of friends whom we had accompanied from Zermatt to Breuil, over the St. Théodule pass: as we wished to return to Zermatt, and felt inclined to vary our route, if possible, we looked round to see if we could find an eligible col. We soon discovered a very marked depression in the ridge connecting the Matterhorn and the Dent d'Hérens, which seemed accessible on the Italian side, though of the descent we knew nothing. We determined at all events to attempt it, and accordingly started at 5.30 A.M. the next morning, provided with a rope, but destitute of the equally necessary accompaniments of a guide and an axe: after mounting for about an hour up slippery grass slopes, we got on to a steep but not difficult glacier, which was surmounted by a snow slope leading straight up to a point in the ridge a little to the west of the true col, and rather higher than it, but which then appeared to us, though erroneously, to be easier of access. Our supply of fluids for the expedition consisted of one bottle of champagne, which was confided to Hardy's charge, and attached to the rope which hung gracefully down his back, allowing the bottle to dangle to and fro. After we had mounted for some distance, kicking steps with our toes, Hardy found the bottle rather inconvenient in the position it then occupied, and detached it from the rope with the intention of putting it in his pocket; the intention was a good one, but alas! it shared the fate of many of its brethren, for Hardy's fingers were cold, and the melancholy result was that, instead of going inside, it went outside his pocket, and commenced a glissade down the steep slopes we had just surmounted.

We stood with elongated faces watching the somewhat erratic progress of our lost treasure, which zigzagged from side to side, jumping the crevasses like a young chamois, till at length its progress was arrested, just on the edge of a large chasm, by a bed of soft snow into which it plunged. As we had not a drop of anything else to drink I descended, and brought back the wanderer in triumph, though a good deal of time was thus wasted. Soon after my return, we came to a bergschrund which without the aid of an axe looked rather formidable, and we

agreed that this was a favourable opportunity for a halt, both to investigate the difficulty before us, and to guard against the possibility of any further accidents happening to our precious bottle. In the latter object we were perfectly successful, but the result was that we decided that it would not be prudent to attack the bergschrund without an axe, and after descending to the valley without an adventure, we reached Zermatt ignominiously by the St. Théodule the same evening.

A few days later I carefully inspected the Swiss side of the supposed pass from the Stockje, and as it appeared to me that, though it must be difficult from its steepness, it was not impracticable, I determined to attack it seriously on the first convenient occasion.

The wished-for opportunity did not arrive till the summer of 1864, when I reached Zermatt with Mr. F. W. Jacomb on the 21st of August, with the settled intention of ascertaining whether or no it was possible to effect a passage across this ridge. We were detained several days by bad weather, but at last we set off on the 25th at 4 A.M., accompanied by Peter Perrn and Ignace Lauber, both Zermatt men, as guides. We proceeded along the smooth surface of the Zmutt glacier, rejoicing in the anticipation of a fine day, till 8 A.M., when we reached a spot at the foot of the east branch of the Tiefenmaten glacier, and nearly in a line between the Stockje and the point we hoped to reach. Here we halted for half an hour to eat our breakfast, and decide upon the most eligible route to adopt. After a careful inspection, we decided that the most feasible plan was to make for a mass of rock on the west side, forming a very conspicuous object at the bottom of the steepest part of the ascent, and from the top of which a snow arête led upwards to a point somewhat to the right of the col, but from which it appeared easy to reach it. After winding among a few séracs, we reached the foot of the rocks at 10 A.M., and we then found the arête so broken and jagged that we thought it better to try and find a way up the snow slopes a little to the left of it: the snow was covered with a thin coating of ice which, though it necessitated a great deal of step-cutting, yet gave us very good foothold, and prevented all danger of a slip; had it been in a different state, I don't think we should have ventured to take this line, as the inclination was very formidable the whole way up, in one place measuring as much as 54°. We met with no serious impediment till 11.35 A.M., when we came to an awkward-looking bergschrund, which, considering the angle of the slope we were mounting, might have proved a serious obstacle; but fortune favoured us, and after a little delay we

found a practicable bridge. After surmounting this difficulty, we ascended slowly for about three-quarters of an hour, till our progress was suddenly arrested by a deep chasm, about 10 feet high and the same width, running on the left towards the col, and on the right leading to a cluster of hopeless séracs.

Once more, however, the fickle dame came to our assistance, and, after a considerable détour to the right, we found a frail bridge which landed us all safely upon the upper side of the schrund. This was our last difficulty; we turned sharp to the left, and at 1.10 P.M. had the satisfaction of standing upon the actual col connecting the Matterhorn and the Dent d'Hérens. The view of the latter mountain was rather foreshortened, but the Matterhorn looked very grand, and the Dent Blanche exactly opposite to us with the Gabelhorn and Rothhorn formed a most imposing group. Towards the south the prospect was very similar to that from the St. Théodule, except that that pass itself, together with the Breithorn, occupied a conspicuous place in the panorama.

Perrn showed his delight by sundry uncouth and exuberant gestures, and informed us that he had gained five francs from Moritz Andermatten, who had laid him a wager to that amount the day before, that it was utterly impossible to make the pass we had just accomplished. As the names of both the adjacent mountains are already appropriated to high passes, we thought the most fitting designation for the one we had just discovered was 'Col Tournanche,' it being exactly at the head of the valley bearing that name.

After spending an hour on the col we commenced the descent, having first of all, according to custom, inserted a record of our proceedings in an empty bottle, which we deposited in a convenient nook, for the edification of future travellers. At our feet lay a wall of rocks, practicable for some distance, but terminating in a series of overhanging precipices; we therefore bore away to the right, descending slightly to strike a niche in a rocky arête which jutted out at right angles to the main ridge, and behind which lay the glacier up which I had ascended in 1861. This point was reached without difficulty, and it then became apparent that we could either descend by the glacier or by the rocks. I wished to go down the glacier as I knew it was not difficult, but as the rest of the party preferred the other alternative, I gave way; we encountered no difficulties beyond treacherous stones and slippery couloirs, the last of which provided us with the luxury of a shower bath, and required caution, as the lower portion was very steep, and furnished with a liberal supply of ice. We left the rocks at 4.55

P.M., skirted a moraine, and then descended by grass slopes to Breuil, which we reached at 5.40 P.M., having taken $13\frac{1}{2}$ hours in effecting the journey thither from Zermatt: it might be done in somewhat less time, as we did not hurry ourselves, and spent some time in discovering the best line to take.

The result of the observations taken by Jacomb gives 11,398 feet as the height of the pass. Perrn seemed highly pleased at the idea of another high pass being added to the number of those already existing in the neighbourhood of Zermatt; as to his conduct, I can only say that he proved himself the same cheerful companion and skilful guide that I have always found him. We were much pleased also with the conduct of Lauber, who, with a little experience and practice, will make a first-rate guide. To anyone fond of mountain scenery, who is tired of the well-trodden path over the St. Théodule, we can strongly recommend the pass as an agreeable change.

MURRAY'S KNAPSACK GUIDE TO SWITZERLAND.

THE purpose for which this new handbook has been compiled is an obviously useful one, and the mode in which the work has been planned is sensible. The arrangement of routes in Murray's large guide-book has been retained, and the directions rewritten so as to make prominent the points most important to the pedestrian, viz. the distances, and the several stages, so to speak, on each route. But we regret to say that the performance has been by no means equal to the promise. Independently of mere verbal errors and misspellings of proper names, which might pass uncriticised but for the usual accuracy of Mr. Murray's handbooks in such matters, defects of a more important kind are sufficiently numerous to mar the usefulness of this knapsack guide under the very circumstances for which it was specially intended.

The ends to be attained by a knapsack guide are manifestly these:—

1. To give the traveller trustworthy information as to distances.
2. To enable him to dispense with any other guidance, at least on the beaten tracks.
3. To afford him as much information as space will allow about the scenery through which he is passing. It might naturally be supposed, by anyone who had never been concerned in the compilation of a guide-book, that the first of these requisites was very easily supplied. But away from measured high-roads this is by no means the case; and very different estimates of the same distance, as measured by time, may be given with equal correctness. Mr. Ball's *Alpine Guide* states pretty accurately the times required by good average walkers; the distances in Mr. Murray's large handbook may be equally trusted to suit the pace of ladies riding; and the other guide-books, varying between the two, make it a matter of uncertainty to each tourist whether he may rely on their estimates or must allow a margin on one side or the other. But this one, which, being intended expressly for pedestrians, is not