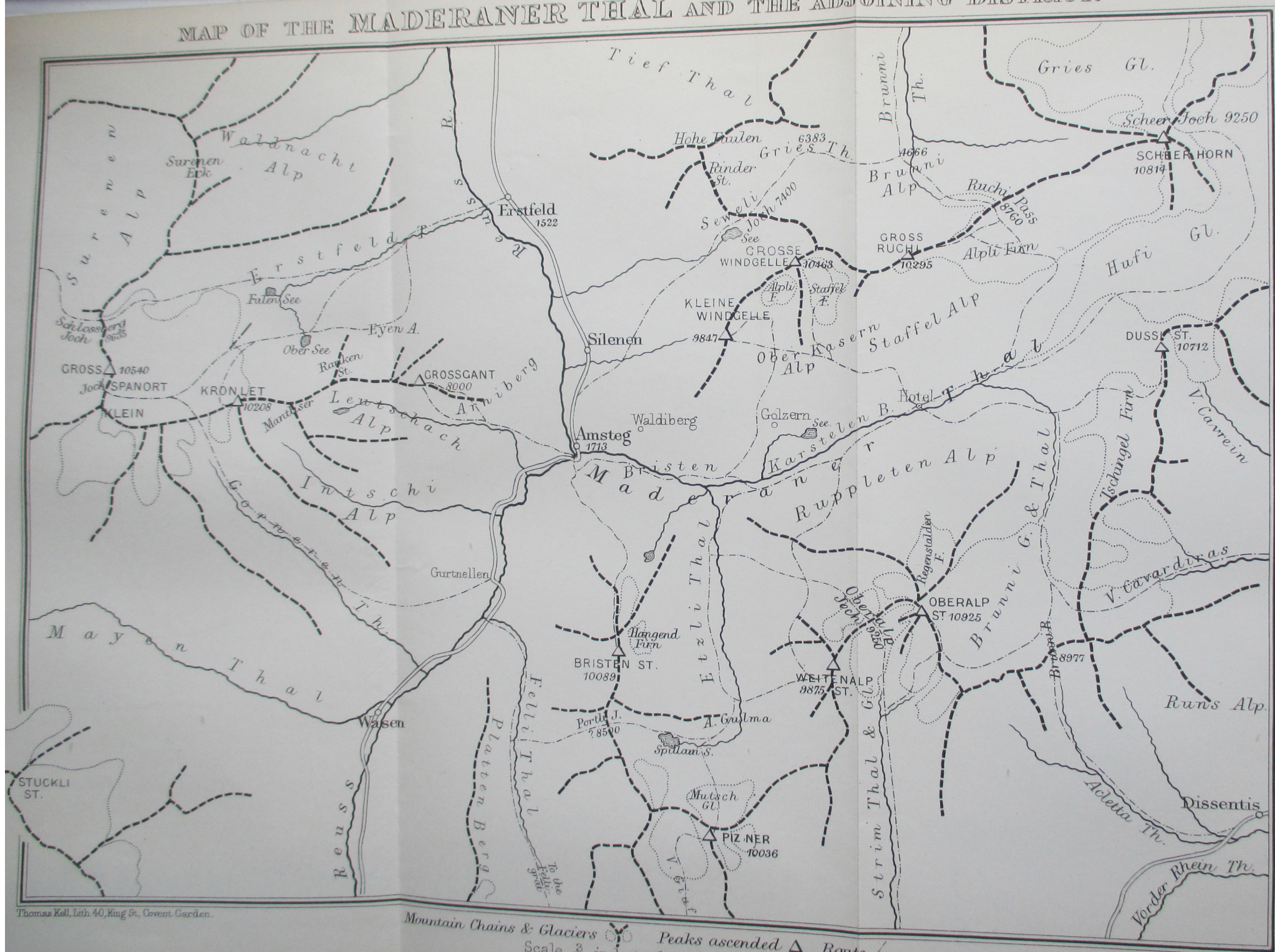


# MAP OF THE MADERANER THAL AND THE ADJOINING DISTRICT.



Thomas Kell, Lith. 40, King St., Covent Garden.

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ROUND THE MADERANERTHAL. By J. SOWERBY.

**A**S the traveller ascends the Valley of the Reuss from Fluelen, he passes in succession on the left hand the mouths of the Schächenthal, Maderanertal, and Fellithal, opening respectively at Altorf, Amsteg, and the Fellibrücke on the St. Gothard road.

The mountains of the Maderanertal are bounded by the first and last of these valleys, and partly also by the Vorder Rheinthal and its tributary the Val Rusein.

On the north side of the valley they rise abruptly in terraces separated by ranges of cliffs. On the south the summits (except the Dussistock and Bristenstock) lie farther back round the heads of two tributary glens, the Etlithal and Brunnithal, which penetrate deeply into the mountain mass.

The former side is composed chiefly of mountain chalk; the latter of crystalline rocks.

Before visiting this district, my attention was directed to it by reading a work entitled 'Berg-und-Gletscher Fahrten,' containing an account of various expeditions by Swiss climbers, and amongst them several in this neighbourhood. These were made by George Hoffmann, a tradesman of Basel, an ardent lover of nature, who, in spite of weak health, and the calls of business, yearly more importunate, made the ascent of most of the peaks in this district, many of them for the first time. He died in 1858; and an interesting memoir of him by Deacon Pestalozzi is prefixed to the first volume.

The expeditions I have made range over ten years, from 1862 to 1872, and in many cases I have preserved no record of them, and must depend upon my memory. It seems best to me to arrange them in topographical rather than chronological order. I shall therefore begin at Amsteg with the northern range, return to it by the southern group, and end with the excursions in the district west of Amsteg. The map prefixed

VOL. VI.—NO. XLIII.

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to this paper will, it is hoped, be sufficient to indicate the position of the main points, and the general direction of the routes.

On Saturday, June 25, 1864, I walked from Fluelen to Unterschächen, hoping to cross the Krukeli (or Rauch-Kehle, or Ruchi-Kehle) into the Maderanerthal. I had sent a message to Z'graggen to join me; and spent Sunday in a stroll to the Klausen Pass. Z'graggen arrived in the evening. He said he did not know the Krukeli, but would take me to Amsteg by another way. Monday morning was ushered in by a pouring rain, which lasted, without intermission, for nearly thirty-six hours. When it began to clear off, we could see the pines a few hundred feet above us white with snow. We took a walk as far as the Brunni Alp; but could see very little, though we heard enough, as the roar of the 'Staublawinen,' on the grand cliff-face of the Ruchi, was incessant. On Wednesday the weather was perfect. We started at 5.30. Forty minutes brought us to the Brunni Alp. Here we struck off to the right through the pine-woods. A very few minutes brought us to the new-fallen snow, which we did not quit for many hours. An hour's ascent brought us into a highland valley, the Griesthal. On the more level ground the snow was deeper; not even a rhododendron bush showed its head. Z'graggen had a nice time of it; and I profited by his stumbles, but could not always escape. At nine we halted at a chalet for breakfast—glad to find a space clear of snow to sit down in. Here we were nearly below the Grosse Windgelle. Between us and its base were two curious peaks, called the Wyssstöchli and Schwarzstöchli—the one of limestone, the other of tertiary rocks. With the few ledges on which snow could lie newly covered, the latter looked like a little Matterhorn. Between these two peaks and the base of the Windgelle is a hunter's pass. After pushing on a little further up the valley, we climbed the ridge connecting the Grosse Windgelle and the Rinderstock, called by Z'graggen Mantlisergrat. This was the Seweli Joch, called also Seweli Furke. We reached it about ten, and were able to rest a short time, as the wind had swept the snow off the crest. The thermometer was 38°; and from an aneroid observation I calculated the height, taking the differences from both Unterschächen and Amsteg, at 7,200 feet. For so low a pass the view was singular. Except a few pines on the Kinzig Kulm, nothing was visible but snow and rocks. The peaks of the northern range were seen to advantage. Grandest of all were the cliffs of the Grosse Windgelle, and of the ridge join-

ing it with the Kleine Windgelle, which seemed utterly impassable. Below us lay the little Seweli See in a waste of snow. Descending, we crossed the outlet of the lake, and began to follow a grass terrace between ranges of cliffs. The appearance of the grass, which looked as if it had been hard raked, showed the recent passage of avalanches. Presently we came to a patch of avalanche snow, about thirty yards square, from which the further and lower quarter had gone, leaving the patch something like a carpenter's square. I proposed to go above it under the rocks. Z'graggen objected, on the score of possible avalanches from above; so we began to cross it at the narrowest part. Hardly had we taken half a dozen steps on it, when we saw the upper and further quarter begin to move, and we ran for our lives, just clearing it before it rushed with a loud roar over the cliffs. With this exception, our descent was uneventful. We rounded the Kleine Windgelle, whose peaks stood out finely above us, descending from one terrace to another over slippery grass slopes, till we reached a rough path which brought us into the high road, about half a mile from Amsteg, which we reached at 3 P.M. We were five hours in the new snow; and I should think that under ordinary circumstances the walk would not exceed seven hours. I have often felt since this excursion that we ran much more risk than I thought at the time, as avalanches were frequent for the next two days; and moreover when subsequently, in the ascent of the Gross Ruchi the same summer, we passed the cliffs above the Hufi Glacier, I felt thankful we had not tried the Krukeli on this day.

The Kleine Windgelle is the most westerly peak of the northern chain, and the lowest, being only 9,847 feet above the sea-level. It is not visible from Amsteg. As you ascend towards Intschi (about 20' from Amsteg), on looking back it appears with great grandeur as a fine pyramid, of more than 8,000 feet from base to summit. It was first ascended by Hoffmann, in July 1847, with Johann Epp, of Waldiberg, as guide. Without crossing the Kerstelenbach, they ascended directly behind Amsteg, passing through Frenchberg (or Dächli), Waldiberg, the Alps Niederstäffeli, Oberstäffeli, and Im Ruck, to the base of the first range of cliffs (about 8,000 ft.), which they succeeded in crossing. The upper range of cliffs seemed impassable; but, on bearing to the east along the terrace, they found a gully, by which they reached the summit in nine hours from Amsteg, including halts. In July 1862 I made the ascent with Z'graggen by a different route. Starting at 3 A.M., we crossed the Kerstelenbach, and followed

the usual route up the Maderanerthal. Just before crossing the stream for the second time, we turned to the left and followed a path which zigzagged amongst the cliffs to the village of Golzern. Leaving this to our right, we kept up the slopes behind it to the Alp Oberkasern, which we reached at 6.30. Here we halted for twenty minutes, and then advanced leisurely up the hollow between the two Windgellen. This is a fine example of the barren limestone plateaux locally called *Schratten*, though not to be compared with the *Steinerne Meer* and others in the Eastern Alps. They are always awkward to cross, particularly in wet weather. Some of the cracks in this were of great size and depth, resembling crevasses in a glacier. At my age I had not much elasticity left, and was occasionally driven to a circuit. At 7.30 we gained its upper part, and overlooked the comparatively level basin between the Windgellen, of which the small glacier called 'Älpli Firn' occupies the eastern side, below the cliffs of the Grosse Windgelle, which rise more than 2,000 feet above it. One part of this under the rocks of the Furggeli (the spur running south from the Grosse Windgelle) was of an inky black colour, said to be caused by the presence of anthracite coal. The glacier hardly extends beyond the base of the Grosse Windgelle. The rest of the space is occupied by a snow-bed of greater or less extent, according to the time of year. The ridge which borders it is fantastically jagged, and has a peculiar red pinnacle in the middle, called the *Rothhörnli*. This colour is probably due to the presence of iron. In the hollow through which we had just passed are several old shaft openings, which were worked in the early part of the sixteenth century by an Italian named Madrano, who is said to have given the name Maderanerthal to the valley, divided previously into the Ruppletenthal and Kerstelenenthal. Here we halted awhile, then bearing to the left up a slope of shiver, a few minutes brought us to the terrace below the upper cliffs. This presented, with care, no difficulty, except where it was covered by hard snow. We had no rope, and for security we generally avoided these places by creeping between the snow and the cliff where the *schrund* caused by the warmth of the rock afforded a tolerably commodious passage. The upper cliff is broken in several places by gullies. After rejecting the first of these, the second gave us access to the summit after a rough scramble, with no difficulty except from the rottenness of the stone, and the sharpness of its edges, which more than once gave me something to remember them by. The gully led to a little hollow about twenty feet below the

ridge which forms the summit. We climbed to the eastern end of this. It is about twenty yards long, and three or four feet wide, except at the western end, where it opens out into a small plateau. We reached this at 9.30, in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours from Amsteg, including halts, the difference of level being 8,134 feet. We could see little but the valley of the Reuss and the opposite mountains. The Grosse Windgelle, however, was a magnificent object, its cliffs rising more than 600 feet above us. A cutting north wind soon drove us to the little hollow below the top, where we dined. The summit of this mountain is composed of porphyry, and is so disintegrated that we had to take great care not to drop anything. We were warned by the disappearance in the crannies of several choice morsels; my favourite pocket-knife was only rescued with much difficulty. We started for the descent about 11, and this time followed the first gully, which saved us several hundred yards of terrace. After leaving this, we lay down for a short nap, and I never was so much struck by the blue colour of the limestone as on waking in the blazing sunshine. The effect was almost magical. From this point we followed the route of the morning, and reached Amsteg at 3 P.M.

In 1869 I repeated the ascent from the hotel in the Maderanerthal. We gained the Bernetsmatt Alp (the western part of In den Staffeln), crossed the spur from the Grosse Windgelle into the hollow beyond, and held westward without rising much till we found a cleft (the same by which the first ascent was made), which enabled us to clear both lines of cliff in a continuous ascent. We were  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. on the ascent, the difference of level being 5,441 feet. But seven years makes a difference in one's walking powers; and we botanised a little. Returning we followed the upper terrace, and Trösch (Joseph Maria) thought it best to use the rope. This mountain is said to be easy when the Grosse Windgelle is hard, and *vice versa*, as the snow facilitates the ascent of the latter (at least by the route now used), while it increases the difficulties of the former.

The Grosse Windgelle, which exceeds its namesake by 616 feet, lies further back to the N. and is not so easily visible. Mr. Ball ('Central Alps,' p. 262) says, that this mountain and the Scheerhorn, as well as the Kleine Windgelle, are visible from the road at Intschi or thereabouts. As far as my recollection goes, you can only see the last. In fact, the map seems to show that the Kleine Windgelle at that point covers the Grosse, and that the slopes of the Bristenstock must shut out the Scheerhorn.

The Grosse Windgelle rises from the Älpli and Staffel Glaciers in vast limestone precipices, forming a pyramid of most forbidding appearance, which might well be supposed inaccessible until fairly tried. It was first ascended by Joseph Maria Trösch and Melchior Trösch, August 16, 1848, and 15 days later they conducted Hoffmann to the summit by the same route. This was along a gully on the SE. face. Though the slopes were very smooth and steep, they seem seldom to have climbed hand-over-hand. The chief difficulties were the passage of the bergschrund, and one or two queer places amongst the rocks. Hoffmann describes one in particular on the descent, where they had to pass sliding a smooth rock that bulged out, with nothing apparently between them and the glacier, 2,000 feet below. The ascent from the Bernetsmatt Alp took  $5\frac{1}{2}$  hrs., the descent  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , some time being lost owing to a fog.

In August 3, 1863, the second ascent was made by a young Englishman, named Ralph Milbank, but I know no particulars. In 1864, Messrs. Raillard and Fininger, S.A.C., of Basel, made the ascent by a new route, which has since been uniformly followed. Keeping up the glacier nearly to the ridge which joins the Windgelle with the Gross Ruchi, they were enabled to reach the summit by snow-slopes, which, though steep, presented no difficulty. Their times are not very intelligible.\*

I made the ascent with Mr. Thompson on July 11, 1866. The evening before we walked up from the upper hotel to the Alp, accompanied by J. M. Trösch and A. Z'graggen, and the latter's son, Hansli, as porter—a fine boy, who unfortunately perished two years after on the cliffs of the Erstfeldthal. Seldom have I seen an evening when the stars glittered more brightly, or that gave fairer promise for the morrow. We started next morning at 2.50. We kept under the east base of the Furggeli to the glacier, whose centre we followed to its head, and then turned sharp to the left up the snow-slopes. A few days earlier, our guides said, these had been continuous to the summit. They were now interrupted every here and there by patches of bare rock, very smooth, very wet, and covered in many parts with loose rubbish. These alone gave us some trouble, as they were excessively slippery—and the inclination was often above  $50^{\circ}$ . After about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. of this work, on making a bend to the right towards the main ridge, the top came in sight close to us, and we reached it in 10 minutes more, at 6.50.

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\* 'Jahrbuch,' vol. ii. pp. 140–144.

The day was perfectly fine and the view magnificent. We were on the more easterly of the two peaks, which are apparently of equal height. Hoffmann says, the hollow between them is 500 feet deep, and the distance about a gunshot. Messrs. Raillard and Fininger say it is several hundred feet deep. These statements are much exaggerated, except the gunshot, which is of course an indefinite distance. I do not suppose it is 50 feet deep. Trösch and Z'graggen descended into it and crossed to the base of the other peak, probably not more than 30 yards off. The rock faces at its base were too smooth to admit of further progress, but with a ladder of 12 or 15 feet we might have succeeded. We left the top at 9, and following the same course reached the châteaux again at 11.

The Alp 'In den Staffeln,' lying along the base of the Grosse Windgelle and the Gross Ruchi, is a terrace-like plateau, varying in width and elevation. The western part of it is the Bernetsmatt Alp; the eastern the Alp Gnof, from which the Gross Ruchi has the name Alpgnoferstock. The whole surface has more or less the character of the Schratten, but is seldom so bare. Like the Steinerne Meer, which on a small scale it strongly resembles, it is covered with irregular eminences, amongst which it is easily possible to lose the direction. I have seen the best guides in the valley puzzled on it in a fog. The drainage of the western part wholly, and of the rest to a large extent, finds its way to the valley by subterranean channels, which in some cases send forth streams of considerable volume, as the Milchbach, near the Blindseeli Alp, not far from the upper hotel. On the Bernetsmatt Alp spring water is a scarce article, the only spring I know producing but a few drops per second. Eastward from the Staffelfirn are two small glaciers lying under the cliffs of the Gross Ruchi. This mountain is invisible, but the Äpli (or Tschingelfirn) shows in places above the cliffs. As you go eastward the Alp gradually narrows, and the upper and lower cliffs approach each other till but a narrow, and in some places unsafe, terrace affords a passage. A cattle track leads from the Blindseeli Alp ( $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. east of the hotel) to the Alp Gnof, and between this and the path to Golzern there are but two footpaths, one almost unsafe, that lead to the alp.

On July 1864 we reconnoitred the Gross Ruchi from the Oberalpstock, and two days later we made the ascent, after sleeping at a châteaux in Waldibalm, which the landlord of the 'White Cross' at Amsteg had fitted up with three beds. Fearing soft snow, we started at 2 A.M. The morning was dark, with some thunder and rain, so that we were obliged to

use a pine torch, made of a number of thin splinters fastened together. This gave a good light, but was liable to go down suddenly—once when I was in an unpleasant situation, on a slippery stone in the middle of a torrent. We climbed by the cattle track to the Alp Gnof, and then followed the terrace, which narrowed till we had to look carefully to our feet. One part is called the 'Böse Tritt.' About 5 we emerged from the terrace on the Geiss Alp, where we rested. An hour up the snow-slopes brought us to the upper névé, when the object of our attack made its first appearance as a narrow and steep snow-ridge, surmounting several hummocks of névé, which broke away right and left in blue ice-cliffs. We held nearly due N. across the glacier and then turned W. to the peak. After surmounting the hummocks, which were each of considerable height, the final ridge was before us. It was so steep that the snow was coming down in small avalanches, and I began to fear a failure. Having left everything but the rope, we approached the ridge just above the last hummock where the snow had slid away most and formed a furrow. I was last, and went in deep, but we got on steadily, and were on the ridge exactly at 8.30. This ran N. and S. about 15 yds., just wide enough to walk on, and opened out a little at the N. end, so that we could all stand together. To our right was the steep slope we had ascended; to the left a dark precipice; in front, as we looked down, the first objects that met the eye were the chalets of the Brunni Alp, 6,000 feet below. We almost seemed suspended in the air above them. The sky was cloudless and the view perfect. After a series of jodels from the guides to celebrate what was supposed to be a first ascent, we left the top at 9.15, and after carefully descending the steep slope soon rejoined our baggage. After clearing the hummocks, we at once struck off S. across the glacier, and then followed the route of the morning to the chalet, which we reached at 1. The weather, which had been perfect for nearly 12 hours, now broke suddenly, and I went down to Amsteg in one of the heaviest storms I ever saw. The hail was so heavy that I was too thankful for the loan of a stout cotton umbrella, and the streams from the steep *runsen* on the S. side of the valley came down so speedily that we were barely in time to get across them in safety.

The route to the Ruchen Pass\* is the same as that followed

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\* Z'raggen asserted in 1872 that the name Krukeli properly belonged to a pass leading by the Hutstockli and behind the Klein Scheerhorn to the Gries Glacier, at the head of the Schächenthal.

on the last excursion. On arriving at the summit level of the Tschingel (or Älplfirn) you must bear away to the NE. angle of the glacier, descending slightly to the point where it joins the cliffs of the Bockzingel. At this point you are at the head of a long ravine, or rather steep narrow valley of shiver, often covered with snow, enclosed by cliffs, and running nearly E. to W., which leads to the Brunni Alp, at the base of the Gross Ruchi, and thence to Unterschächen in 8 hours from Waldibalm. I was at the head of this ravine in 1864, and have crossed it twice since, in 1867, from the Maderanerthal to Unterschächen, and in 1872 in the reverse direction. These passages were all in the first week of July; on the first two of them the valley (Ruchi-Kehle?) was covered with snow for a vertical distance of nearly 3,000 feet, which afforded some fine glissading. On the last the snow lay only in patches, and the glacier on the other side was much diminished. In the Maderaner Brunnithal I have made excursions in the years 1864, 1866, 1872, all in the month of July. In the first two of these the bed of the stream was often choked with snow, which afforded a most convenient passage, and it was the commonly expressed opinion that the Waltersfirren Alp was never clear till the latter part of August. In 1872 there was hardly any snow in the valley. We had to cross bad bridges, and make troublesome ascents and descents, and the Brunni Glacier had shrunk much. Probably a rapid retrogression of all the glaciers in this neighbourhood is going on at present. Hoffmann observed that, whilst the Hufi Glacier, which has a gentle inclination, was advancing between 1837 and 1847, the Regenstaldenfirn (on the S. slopes of the valley above the Lungenstutz), which is very steeply inclined, was retreating during the same time. Probably these motions, if observed for long periods, will be found to be oscillatory.

The Scheerhorn (10,814) is the highest summit of the northern chain, which is here crossed by a spur at right angles reaching nearly to the Dussistock, and leaving but a very narrow outlet for the Hufi Glacier. It was first ascended by Hoffmann with Jos. Gysler and Peter Imholz, Aug. 9, 1842. From Unterschächen they gained the Gries Glacier and the Scheerlucke, and then went up the steep eastern face of the peak. The second recorded ascent (and the first from the south side) was made by Herr Fininger, of Basel, with Trösch and Z'graggen, Aug. 11, 1863. Sleeping at the miserable hut of the Hufi Älpli, they started at 4.7 A.M. They ascended the slopes above the hut, and reached the glacier in 45 m., at a point above the icefall. At 6.15 they were opposite the spur

of the Scheerhorn, turned N. to the Scheerlucke, and at 7 were at the base of the mountain. The glacier at this time presented more difficulties than usual; there was much hard ice on the upper slopes; and they took two hours to gain the ridge, about 150 feet below the summit, which was reached in a quarter of an hour more, at 9.30. This is the highest point in an irregular, jagged, and frequently very narrow ridge.

I made the ascent from the hotel on July 8, 1869, with J. M. Trösch and Albin Baumann. We started at 2 A.M. with a lantern. Walking with a lantern is a very disagreeable proceeding, as you generally are frightened at the shadows, and courageously charge the stones; but on this occasion it did us good service, as on descending the dark path to the snow-bed by which the Kerstelenbach is generally crossed, the light showed us that it had disappeared in the night. Should we return to the nearest bridge, or advance and cross the glacier? In an evil hour, deciding on the latter—I suppose on the principle that retreat is disgrace—we gained the foot of the glacier, over some very rough ground, and with some trouble got on to it. Unfortunately at this early hour it was hard frozen, and we had to cut steps on slopes of the gentlest inclination. I believe the passage of some 300 yards cost us three-quarters of an hour, and we then had a little bit of a scramble to gain the track to the Hufi Älpli. From this, following the same route as Herr Fininger, but with less trouble, as we had not a single step to cut, and were rather troubled with the softness of the snow than otherwise, we reached the top a few minutes after 9. After staying about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, we reached the hotel again by the same route at 4 P.M.

The pass between the Scheerhorn and Kammlistock is called the Scheerlucke or Scheerjoch. It is marked in the map 2,825 m.=9,266 feet, and must be nearly the same height as the Clariden Grat. The first passage I have seen any notice of was made by Messrs. Grove, Macdonald, and Stephen, July 31, 1864.

Messrs. Mansell, Thompson, and myself crossed it with Zgraggen in 1865, after sleeping at the poor inn, 'Rose,' at Urnerboden. We started at 3.15 A.M., July 12, and after reaching the Klausen Pass, followed the slopes to the left to the Kammli Alp, and the Gries Glacier beyond. Partly ascending the glacier, and partly the slopes at the base of the cliffs of the Kammlistock, we gained the summit of the pass at 9. Here we rested three-quarters of an hour. From this point our descent to the Maderanerthal was by the route already described to the Scheerhorn. The day was very fine, and the

view of the northern range after we cleared the spur of the Scheerhorn singularly fine. The glacier at this point is greatly compressed and dislocated, and forms on its south side many wavelike ridges, which run into each other in a perfect maze of crevasses. In passing one of these Z'graggen was sounding in a queer-looking place, and I had gathered up the slack of the rope to hold him up, when suddenly I went right overhead into a crevasse so small that, as I swung in it, when my knee touched one wall, my heel touched the other. My head was about four feet below the surface, and as my knapsack had tilted up when I went through, they had some trouble in pulling me out. I have often felt ashamed of this since, for had either the rope been tight, or the alpenstock in its proper position, it could not have happened. Indeed, had I but kept my feet apart, I could not have fallen in—the crevasse was not wide enough. The rope had a very fair trial, for with my knapsack I must have been nearer 15 than 14 stone. We reached the hotel, after paying a visit to the Stauberbach, at 2.30.

Opposite to the Scheerhorn, between the Hufi Glacier and the Brunnithal, is the Dussistock, or Hufistock (10,712), one of the most beautiful peaks in the valley, and which, from its prominent position, is better seen by the traveller through the valley than any other except the Bristenstock. More than three parts of it are surrounded by the Hufi Glacier, the Cavrein Glacier, on the N. and E., and the Tschingel Glacier on the S., which sends down a long narrow tongue of ice into the Brunnithal, reaching nearly to the Waltersfirren Alp (1,930 m.=6,340 feet). On its northern slopes it bears several hanging glaciers, whose avalanches often threaten those who traverse the Hufi Glacier late in the day. The Dussistock was first climbed by Escher von der Linth in 1842. The next recorded ascent that I know of was made by Herr Bischoff Meyer, President of the Bale section of the S.A.C., in 1864. I made the ascent August 3, 1868, with Z'graggen. We left the hotel at 2 A.M., with several other parties, one for the Grosse Windgelle, and two for the Oberalpstock. We followed the ordinary track into the Brunnithal, lighted by a glorious full moon, till about half-way between the Renderbühl Alp and Waltersfirren. Here we took leave of the Oberalpstock party, and started up the slopes to our left. At 5 we were on the névé, which was in beautiful order, and we made our way up without any difficulty to the Klein Dussistock. The usual route is to climb this, and to follow the ridge to the summit. Instead of this, we followed the snow-slopes below

the ridge, until we were compelled to get on to it about 10 minutes from the summit, which we reached at 8. There was not the least difficulty anywhere. Only at one point, close to the top, Z'graggen had to pull himself up with the spike of his axe, and then held out the handle to me. The view was singularly good—above all, for the almost entire survey which you have of the Hufi Glacier, on this side of the Clariden Grat. It was evidently easy to pass from the Hufi Glacier to the Val Cavrein. In 1864 Herr Bischoff Meyer descended from the top into the Val Cavrein by the glacier immediately S. of the summit, reaching the valley near the point marked on the Fed. Map, 2,101 mètres. We sat on the top for an hour enjoying the view and looking in vain for the party on the Grosse Windgelle; they gained their summit just as we left ours. The Oberalpstock party were visible on the upper névé of the Brunni Glacier. We left the top at 9, and, returning by the same route, reached the hotel at 12.

From this mountain the border-chain of the valley sweeps round the head of the Brunnithal in a great curve to the Oberalpstock. The Tschingelfirn is terminated on the S. by the Stotzigrat, and between this and the Piz Cavardiras is the Cavardiras Pass, called also Cavrein Pass (2,705 m. = 8,885 ft.), which offers an easy passage to the Ruseinthal, which we took advantage of in 1866 on our way to the ascent of the Tödi.

Between Piz Cavardiras and Piz d'Aclelta on the west, is the Brunni Pass, by which you can easily reach Disentis from the hotel in 8 or 9 hours. This pass is well known, and has been described in the pages of the Journal by Mr. Brooksbank.

The bounding ridge continues westward to Piz Ault, where it suddenly turns to the N., and culminates in the triple peak of the Oberalpstock, also Piz Tgietschen, or Cotschen (10,925), at once the highest mountain of this district, and that which possesses the greatest historical interest. The first known ascent was made in 1799, by Pater Placidus à Spescha, Abbot of Disentis, one of the most remarkable men of his time, of whom a very interesting biography is given in Professor Theobald's '*Bundner Oberland*.' Accompanied by his servant, he slept at the Alp Runs, above Disentis. In the morning, following an Alpine valley called Laiserein, he gained the upper névé of the Brunni Glacier, and traversed it to the base of the actual peak, which rises about 2,000 feet above it. They found the steeper slopes much crevassed. No date is given, but it must have been late in the year, as in the early

part of July hardly any crevasses are visible. After climbing for two hours, partly on the ridge, partly on the glacier, they encountered a crevasse so large that they were obliged to turn it. In ascending the slope above it, they narrowly escaped destruction from an avalanche of fresh snow lying on old. Spescha sprang up to fix his feet and alpenstock as deeply as possible in the firmer layer beneath. He succeeded in maintaining his position; but his servant was greatly frightened, and he had much difficulty in reassuring him. In an hour more they reached the top. On the descent they came to a narrower part of the same crevasse, and Spescha desired his servant, a young man of twenty-four, to leap over, while he held the rope. So unnerved was he by terror, that he jumped short and fell in. Spescha had to pull him out and help him over. They reached home without further adventure.

Spescha made two other ascents of the Oberalpstock from Sedrun, following the Strimthal, and then the lateral valley opposite the Kreuzli Pass. Keeping up the glacier, immediately S. of the summit, he gained the ridge dividing it from the Brunni Glacier, and joined the route followed in the former ascent. This occupied only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  hours—much less time than the previous attempt. As the view was bad, the ascent was repeated three days later, and Spescha describes the panorama as incomparably wide and varied. The first route followed by Spescha after they attained the *névé* of the Brunni Glacier is undoubtedly the same as the route from the Maderanerthal; and the second is the same as that now used from Sedrun.

In 1847 George Hoffmann attained the summit by a different route. Guided by J. M. Trösch, then a young man of 25 years of age, he left the Etzliboden at 3 A.M., August 13. At 6.15 they reached the Kreuzli Pass, and thence followed the slopes of the Weitenalpstock to the upper *névé* of the Strim Glacier, which was reached at 7.30. This they crossed in half an hour, to the foot of a long and steep gully, partly ice, partly snow, leading continuously to the summit. The ascent of this was laborious, and occupied 4 hours. They remained  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours on the summit, and, returning by the same route, were benighted at the Alp Gulma, or Gulmen, in the head of the Etlzlihal.

In 1864, having been out with Z'graggen for several days, I engaged Trösch as second guide, and we went over the Kreuzli Pass to Sedrun to make the ascent. We must have followed nearly the same route as Spescha in his later ascents. We left Sedrun, July 10, at 4 A.M., in a dense fog, and in two hours were near the Strim Glacier. The fog began to clear

away, and the snow-peaks were seen glittering in the cloudless blue. Then up a lateral valley to our right, till we reached the snow in about an hour at a small plateau called Calmot. Here we halted for refreshment. On starting we found the snow in first-rate order, just letting the foot bite well. We reached the ridge about 9, and the summit, by an ascent in parts very sharp, about 9.45. The view was indescribably beautiful. With the single exception of the Tödi, we overlooked every neighbouring summit, and seemed to see nearly the whole of Switzerland. The temperature was 52° F., and we spent two hours on the summit in the utmost enjoyment. Trösch searched in vain for the bottle left by Hoffmann 17 years before, but it was buried too deep. It was first found three weeks later by another party. Returning to the point where we first struck the ridge, we cleared the snow-slopes in twenty minutes, by a series of magnificent slides, and spread ourselves out to dry on the plateau where we had breakfasted. Sedrun was reached at 3. Here, to my regret, I found that Herr Bischoff Meyer had arrived from Amsteg, greatly disappointed to find that the guides whom he had engaged for this very ascent had taken up another before him. Trösch remained to accompany him the next day, while Z'graggen went down with me to Disentis to cross the Brunni Grat. We ought to have gone direct from the summit into the Maderanerthal; but that was reserved for the S.A.C. a little later.

In 1872, with several friends, I crossed the Oberalpstock from the Maderanerthal to Sedrun. It struck me as being a very tedious route. The circuit of the head of the Brunni Glacier was especially wearisome. It appeared to me that the icefall might be turned on the left, or western side, and so at least a couple of hours be saved. It would be worth while also to try a direct ascent from the Maderanerthal by the Regensteinfirn. Z'graggen said he thought it would be hard, but not impossible.

In 1866, after ascending the Tödi, Mr. Thompson and myself, with J. M. Trösch as guide, crossed the ridge between the Oberalpstock and Weitenalpstock. Leaving Sedrun at 4.50 on July 16, we reached the Strim Glacier, and keeping up a long snow-bed on its left bank were on the névé at 7.30. We halted for breakfast at the base of the gully by which Hoffmann effected his ascent, and Trösch proposed to repeat it, but we were too lazy after a day's idling at Disentis, and declined. The upper part of the glacier is tolerably level, and the ridge at its head, though jagged in a fantastic manner, rises very little

above it. We reached the lowest point in the ridge at 8.50. The small glaciers on the other side lie more than 1,000 feet below the ridge, and the face looked so steep that I felt very doubtful; but Trösch, who had doubtless often been there chamois-hunting, assured us it would go quite well. I made the height 9,250 feet, which is probably rather in excess. We first scrambled down the rocks a bit, and then took to a narrow gully; but as this side was all in shadow, the snow was too hard, and we again took to the rocks at its edge for several hundred feet. Then, finding the snow soft enough to kick steps in, we resumed the gully, and were soon glad to glissade out of the cold narrow ravine into the open névé and the bright sunshine. We soon were off the snow, and went down the Sellinen Tobel into the Etzlithal, and by the usual route to Amsteg, which we reached in 4 hrs. from the top, the rock descent having taken  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hrs. The whole time, exclusive of the halt at the top, was about 8 hrs., and this pass, though higher, need occupy little more time than the Kreuzli, as it is more direct.

I climbed the Weitenalpstock the same summer with J. M. Trösch. We left the hotel, July 9, at 4 A.M., and descended the valley to the Lungenstutz in 40 minutes; then, turning up a narrow valley to the left (Griesserthal?), we gained the ridge called Seeleck about 6.30, without any trouble except from the steep slippery grass slopes towards the top. The view of the peaks on the N. side is very good from this point, and it was selected by Hoffmann as a station for his panorama of that side. From this part we descended nearly 1,000 feet into the Sellinen Tobel, and began to ascend the NW. spur of the Weitenalpstock, till we were stopped by the rocks. We then followed a narrow and in some places unsafe footpath nearly at a level to the upper part of the Weiten Alp. This lies between the W. and SW. spurs of the mountain. We gained a snow-bed which fills the upper part of this hollow, and crossed it to a suitable point in the SW. spur. Here, at 9.30, we attacked the rocks, which Trösch remarked were 'etwa streng,' and got to the top at 11.50, having been 7 hrs. 50 mins. on the ascent. The descent, however, into the Sellinen Tobel lost us a good deal of time. The clouds were about our level, and we had hardly any view. Descending the rocks, I had to use my arms so much, that I took the cramp, and had to wait every 10 minutes to quiet the muscles. On reaching the Weiten Alp, we went straight down into the Etzlithal by a footpath, which, like that of the morning, crossed rock faces in a very precarious manner, and occasionally followed the bed of a stream.

Then down the Etlzlihal, refreshing ourselves at Trösch's house by the way. On reaching the top of the steep descent into the Maderanerthal, we held to the right at a level to gain the Lungenstutz; but the way was so bad, and there were so many obstacles to be crossed, that I lost my temper, and I shall never try the short cut when I go that way again, unless I hear the path is improved. We did not reach the hotel till 7 P.M., both pretty well tired.

The boundary line of the group now sweeps round by the Kreuzli Pass, through the Mutsch, Piz Ner (or Crispalt), and Piz Giuf to the Bristenstock.

We went over the Piz Ner to Sedrun, July 17, 1865, two days after crossing the Scheerjoch. We slept at Trösch's house, in the Etlzliboden. He had but one spare bed, and the very doubtful honour of occupying this was assigned to me, as the senior. However I slept well. In the morning we followed the Etlzlihal to the Kreutzlistutz (where you turn left to the Kreuzli Pass), and following the right branch for a short time, we turned south to the glacier which lies between the Mutsch, Piz Ner, and Piz Giuf. There was no difficulty in crossing this, and the ascent of the NE. face of the peak, which looks very steep from a distance, only required a rough scramble. At the Alp Gulma (on the Kreutzlistutz), we learned that Z'graggen, with a S.A.C., had failed on the Crispalt the previous day (I can hardly think it was Z'graggen's fault) and had started this morning to try again. When we got on the Mutsch Glacier, we saw them on the opposite side making for the col between the Piz Ner and Piz Giuf, and a good way ahead of us. But they were only on the top 5 minutes before us. The top is a short irregular ridge only a few yards long, the blocks in many cases overhanging. All the valleys which it overlooks are very barren and savage. The weather was delightful. We were more than two hours on the top, and amongst us we took an outline of three quarters of the panorama. Our guides asserted this to be the Crispalt. Hoffmann also, in his panorama from the Bernetsmatt Alp, names it the Crispalt. It is marked on the Federal Map 3,059 m., but we all agreed that it was higher than the peak named Crispalt on the map, to which the height 3,080 m. is assigned. It is not unlikely the Piz Ner has been underrated. The S. A. C. in some notes in the visitors' book at Amsteg gives the height at 10,264 feet (? Swiss feet). We descended on the SW. face, which was not particularly difficult, but very rotten; it was very hard to avoid dislodging small stones, which raised the wrath of those below. By bearing a little to the N. we got off the rocks on

to the little glacier at the head of Val Giuf. This has a moraine quite out of proportion to its merits, about ten times its size. Down the Val Giuf into the Vorder Rheinthal and to Sedrun. I have no notes, but I believe the ascent took about 5 hours and the descent 3 hours.

In 1869 I had a fine walk up the Etzlithal and round the Bristenstock over the Portli Joch into the Fellithal\* and so to Amsteg. It is possible by this route to ascend the Bristenstock. I think Mr. H. P. Thomas, in 1869, went over it from the Maderanerthal to Amsteg. The ascent of the Bristenstock from Amsteg is now well known. The experiences of Messrs. Hardy and Kennedy in the first series of 'Peaks and Passes,' will enable anyone to reach the summit who will make the attempt seriously, and start in good time from Amsteg.

All round the village of Amsteg are charming walks, that wind through the pine-forests from one alp to another on the lower slopes of the Kleine Windgelle, the Bristenstock, and the Arniberg. One day in 1864, I walked with Z'graggen up the summit just behind the Arniberg marked in the Federal Map Grossgant. Here we had a fine view, but immediately behind us was a rocky double-toothed summit, which shut out nearly all the view to the W. The view from this must certainly be much finer, and we began to work towards it along the ridge. We soon found this was the worst possible way, and several times we were almost stuck fast, but after a severe struggle we reached it. The view to the W. was still cut off by the Mantliser and others, but as these were more distant, we willingly conceded to them the right of forming the western boundary of our panorama. There was a most convenient natural armchair on the top, where I enjoyed myself greatly for some time. Z'graggen asserted we were on the Grossgant; but from the map it must have been the peak marked Ottersbalm. The height I estimated at about 8,000 feet. I thought this was from its accessibility in a comparatively short time the Amsteg mountain *par excellence*, and one day in a subsequent year I repeated the ascent, intending to sketch the view, but was defeated by the weather. I got, however, a list of most of the prominent objects seen from it. These, beginning W. and going round by N., were the Schlossberg, and the range N. of the Erstfeldthal (over it the Blackenstock and Rothstock, the bay of Uri, the Rigi Scheideck, Brunnen, Altorf and the Reussthal to Silenen, the Zuger See, the Albis

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\* From the head of this valley it is easy to cross the Felli Pass (8,000), and descend to the Oberalp See.

and Züricher See, the Rossberg (N. of Schachenthal), the Schwarzstock, and Rinderstock; the Seweli Alp, the Grosse and Kleine Wingelle, the Scheerhorn, Claridenstock, Tödi, Dussistock, Oberalpstock, Kreuzlistock, Bristenstock, Matenstock, the Fellithal, Crispalt, Andermatt, and the mountains round it—the Fibbia, Spitzliberg and its satellites; lastly, the Kronlet and Mantliser, in the same range as ourselves; a circle of no great extent, but on a fine day very beautiful. We of course found the descent much easier. I believe on the first occasion we were 7 hours up and 3 down; and on the second I could not find the way very well, as clouds were hanging about. But I should say 8 hours as a rule would suffice, and it would be a very nice excursion for an off day. In going up the Maderanerthal this peak is conspicuous in the centre of the view looking back from about Bristen.

The three remaining excursions were all made from the Erstfeldthal.

On Saturday, July 2, 1864, just three days after passing the Seweli Joch—where we had so much new snow—I went with Z'graggen by this valley to Engelberg. We drove down from Amsteg to Klus, and got fairly off from Erstfeld about 3.15. Twenty minutes brought us into the valley, up which we followed the usual track till we passed the first châteaux and entered a gorge, at the head of which we breakfasted about 6. Passing the upper châteaux and the fine waterfall formed by the stream from the Ober and Unter Fülen See, we reached the glacier at 7.30. This is an extensive ice-field, bounded by the Schlossberg, Gross and Klein Spanorter, Kronlet and some subordinate peaks. As we entered on its surface, the day, which had been unpromising, began to improve; the first thing which cheered us being the snowy summit of the Schlossberg flashing brightly through the mist. It seemed feasible to go right up the middle of the glacier to the notch between the Schlossberg and Gross Spanort, but Z'graggen objected on the score of the new snow. We worked gradually up patches of old snow and rocks to the slopes under the cliffs of the former mountain. The snow was already soft, and before long we were going frequently knee deep. Every few minutes we had to cross the remains of avalanches fallen during the last week, and these afforded firmer footing. About halfway up, when on an interval of smooth snow between two of these, we heard a faint noise from above. We listened; it was repeated. Z'graggen, said 'Lawine,' and as I looked round in some perturbation for a place of shelter, he observed that we were on smooth snow and the avalanche would only descend by its usual

channel. During this the faint murmur changed to a deep rumbling sound, then to a rattling roar, and with wonder not unmixed with terror I saw the mass of snow burst like a huge waterfall over the edge of the cliff in front, here some 350 feet high, and fall with deep dull thuds on the slope within 50 yards of us. Almost immediately after, another flew over the cliffs just behind us. These were not merely masses falling down, but formed continuous streams for nearly a minute. When all was quiet, we once more commenced our wading, and by slow degrees reached the pass, but not till 12 noon, exactly 8½ hrs. from Erstfeld. The oppressive heat was here exchanged for a cutting wind, so that we did not stay long. I made the height 8,721 feet (8,635 by the Federal Map), so that we had climbed more than 7,000 feet from Erstfeld. The space between the cliffs of the Schlossberg and Gross Spanort is only about 100 yards, and the view is very limited. From the top we kept down the slopes on the side of the Schlossberg, and presently ventured into a snow hollow just under the cliffs, but finding that stones from the cliffs occasionally fell into it, we held down its left edge till we reached the top of the lower cliffs. Here we were compelled to cross the snow channel and keep round nearly to the E. side of the mountain to find a practicable slope. We complained that the Schlossberg had today first snow-balled us and then stoned us, but we had yet to learn the extent of his malice.

We had got down into the valley and were on the horse-track from the Surenen, when we heard a crash, and looking up at the face of the cliff opposite, saw that a great rock as big as a house had broken away from the face. It first plunged into a rocky ravine, where we lost sight of it, but we could hear it grinding furiously along and see the puffs of smoke darting out from the force of the collisions. In a few seconds it emerged broken into three pieces, and these at every bound parted into more, so that in less time than it takes to read this, the green slopes of the alp opposite to us were covered with pieces of all shapes and sizes rushing furiously down. Being at a height above the stream, we seemed to be in perfect security, but some of the blocks crossed the water and came many feet up on our side. Soon the hurly-burly was over, and we heard the lowings of the frightened cattle (Z'graggen said he saw one struck), while the cloud of dust still hung high in the air like a funeral pall. We owed no doubt all our experiences of this day to the late heavy fall of snow. Engelberg was reached at 4 P.M.

In 1867 we ascended the Gross Spanort. Having met our old guides, Trösch and Z'graggen, at Erstfeld, we walked up

the Erstfeldthal to the first châteaux (3,418), where we passed the night. For bread, milk, and a hay bed, we were charged 20 francs, an extortionate demand even for six people. I believe the not unfrequent passage of tourists to Engelberg or to the head of the valley, which is marked in some maps as a speciality in scenery, has demoralised them. Next morning, July 9, we left at 3.15 A.M., and followed a very rough path to the Ober See. The stream from this was crossed on a snow-bed. Then by the rocks and snow-slopes on the S. side of the glacier (near the principal ice-fall) we reached the upper level of the névé between the Kronlet and Gross Spanort, close to the peak marked 2,374 m. We gained the base of the Spanort over slopes which (otherwise easy) were rendered wearisome by new snow, at 9.20 A.M. The peak appeared very difficult of access, and we bore round to the Spanorter Joch. Here we ascended a steep snow-slope between two rock walls. This in a few minutes brought us to a small snow-terrace. We had now a clear view of the peak, which is formed of a fantastically arranged group of rocks of a columnar form, separated in many cases by deep perpendicular gullies. The rocks were covered in a wonderful manner by the frozen snow, which ornamented every ledge and projection with the most graceful feather-like plumes. Ascending a slope of rubbish covered with snow, we attacked the rocks at the lowest point, and though the foothold and handhold were of the scantiest order, we made our way to the next snow-terrace about 60 feet above. The next set of rocks, about 80 feet high, was worse. Z'graggen had first to push Trösch up a chimney (part of the way at least), and he then managed to get a secure position and helped each of us up by the rope. Then a few minutes over easy snow-slopes along a tolerably broad ridge brought us to the top at 11.25. This falls away in precipices on all sides but that by which we ascended. The actual top is at the N. end, and consists of a mass of rocks about 8 feet high, projecting on all sides from its base, the top being perhaps 8 feet across. We shoved two of the party up, and then handed them up stones to make a man. Unfortunately we had no distant view, but we saw enough to assure us that we were on the highest point of the mountain. The guides at Engelberg say that a peak of the Spanort which they ascend from the N. side (i.e. from the Erstfeld Joch) is the highest. It may look so from their valley, but when on the top its inferiority is beyond doubt. There were no signs of any former ascent. We left the top at 12.25. Trösch let us all in succession down

the first rocks. When we were at the bottom, as we looked up at him, he appeared surrounded with prismatic colours. I could only attribute this to the quantity of fine particles of snow in the air, which we dislodged in our descent, but I do not see why the glory should have surrounded him. All the same he deserved it. The Joch was gained at 1.25 P.M., and we bore across the glacier to a pass between the Kronlet and a nameless peak marked 2,947 m. From this we descended by very steep snow-slopes into the head of the Gornrerenthal. The snow was left at 3.45, and Amsteg reached by the village of Gurntellen at 6.45 P.M. I made the difference between the top and Amsteg 8,827 feet, which, added to 1,713 feet, the height of Amsteg, gives for the Gross Spanort 10,540, which agrees more nearly than usual with the Federal Survey. There is no doubt, however, that only the mean of a number of observations with an aneroid is at all reliable.

In 1868 I ascended the Kronlet with Trösch and Z'graggen; not that two guides were wanted, but it was the last excursion, and as it turned out it was the last time I ever had them together. After ascending the Dussistock on August 3, we went into the Erstfeldthal to sleep at the Eyen Alp, which lies on its S. slopes, under the Raukenstock, at a height of about 5,000 feet. I was heartily tired with the day's work, having ascended and descended more than 9,000 feet; and I was unfeignedly glad when I learned next morning there was no chance of an early start. The weather improving rather, we got away at 5.40, climbing round the shoulder of the Raukenstock; we soon reached the Ober See, which lies immediately under the Kronlet. After searching in vain for means of crossing the stream, we were obliged to wade it. It was not knee deep, nor flowing very fast, but I had no feeling in my legs when I got across. Continuing on our way under the Kronlet, we were much amused with the pranks of a 'gems' who performed a 'pas seul' for several minutes in a gully not far above us. I thought he was mad. He ran up 20 yards or so, and then down again in two or three frantic bounds, and kept repeating the operation till we all burst out laughing, which frightened him into propriety. I never witnessed a 'gemsen-spiel' before or since. Something approaching to it I once saw in a wild hollow below the Gelmerhörner in the Haslithal. Ourselves concealed behind a rock we saw four of these animals not fifty yards from us go round and round in a circle regularly till disturbed by the shrill whistle of my guide. Our direction was much the same as for the Spanort, except that we held more to the left. Arrived at the glacier, we gradually ascended, bearing always to the

left; and struck the ridge W. of the Kronlet, not a quarter of a mile from the summit. The ridge was perfectly easy; on our left a glacier fell away steeply towards the Ober See; to the right were irregular slopes apparently terminated by cliffs overhanging the Gornrerenthal. Half-way along the ridge we saw some sheep which had strayed over the glacier to this height (at least 10,100 feet). They came to us, but as we happened to have no salt to attract them, they shrank away again on to the glacier. We soon reached the peak (10,208) which is not 20 feet higher than the ridge. Curiously enough, the actual summit is not in the ridge itself. It consists of two small peaks flattened at the top, one about 6 and the other about 10 feet high. They are approached by a bridge at right angles to the ridge, and there is a space of about 4 feet between them. The top of the larger is about 12 feet by 8; of the other a little less. We gained the top of the higher by creeping along a ledge at 10 A.M. Great white fleecy clouds were sailing about at our level, which spoiled the view, though they framed some beautiful pictures. From the top you look down very steeply into the Erstfelderthal and the Intschthal. The slopes were too steep to descend into the latter, so we returned as we came. We saw the sheep on the ice, in a most unsafe position on a steep slope, where they could but just keep their footing. On arriving at the Ober See, we followed the Spanorter route to the lower châteaux, and told the occupants of the distressed sheep. We reached Klus about 6, and bidding farewell to Trösch and Z'graggen, I got to Amsteg about 7; and I am afraid I only got up next morning in time to catch the 2 o'clock boat comfortably at Fluelen.

Thus ends the roll of my excursions in this district. Since the new hotel was opened in the Maderanerthal in 1865, the number of expeditions has of course very much increased.\*

\* I had the curiosity to get an extract from the 'Visitors' Book' of the number there recorded, between 1865 and 1871 inclusive, with the following result:—

|                                         | times |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|
| Windgelle (both together) . . . . .     | 21    |
| Bristenstock . . . . .                  | 12    |
| Claridenstock . . . . .                 | 30    |
| Düssistock . . . . .                    | 24    |
| Huti glacier to Stachelberg . . . . .   | 53    |
| Oberalpstock . . . . .                  | 40    |
| Ruchen Pass, to Unterschächen . . . . . | 20    |
| Scheerhorn . . . . .                    | 24    |
| Schlossberg . . . . .                   | 20    |
| Brunni Pass . . . . .                   | 42    |

It is to be lamented that there is no tariff, and that the Swiss Alpine Club have not taken upon themselves to modify charges which must be considered excessive. I have seldom suffered myself, as I was generally travelling with a guide for a lengthened period, but there is no doubt that charges for individual excursions are high.\*

When looking over the numbers of the ALPINE JOURNAL to verify some of the dates and statements made above, I came on an article in the first number about guides when past work, and their claims upon employers whom they have served faithfully. It brought Trösch to my mind. He was very unwell in the spring of 1869, but recovered sufficiently to walk for a week with me, as my pace did not kill him. But he has hardly done anything since, and is now, I fear, quite laid on the shelf; and he is only a year older than I am. Z'graggen too is not the man he was; he was very unwell last spring, and did not walk half as well as usual; indeed up the Oberalpstock he went very badly. I am sure men like him and Trösch are lost when they might still do much valuable work, merely because they are engaged by young climbers whose only ambition is to force the pace, and to do the thing in as short a time as possible. I have heard Z'graggen complain of it years ago.

I feel I owe an apology for laying before the Club such a string of statements about a number of comparatively insignificant excursions. Yet though the peaks be wanting in height, and the excursions in difficulty, I think I may venture to say, that all who travel in this district will find themselves repaid by the variety of the mountain forms and the beauty of the scenes they present. In gathering together my notes and recalling events to my memory, I have travelled again over many happy days, some spent in active exertion on some mountain walk, others in indolent enjoyment on some alp, searching for the finest specimens of the Alpine flora, or enjoying the view, that changed with every hour, with every

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The name Brunni Pass is generally applied in this locality to the pass to Disentis over the ridge called the Brunnigrat; and Ruchen Pass to that leading to Unterschächen. I should hardly have reckoned the Schlossberg as a Maderanerthal excursion. No doubt the pass to Engelberg is meant.

\* I only paid 10 francs in 1862 for the Kleine Windgelle, and the same in 1863 for the Bristenstock. Now, I believe, there are hardly any under 20 francs, and this compares very unfavourably with the charges fixed by the Austrian (now German) Alpine Club, such as 6 florins (= 10s.) for the Wildspitze, or 8 florins (= 13s. 4d.) for the Gross Glockner.

passing cloud. But I, too, like my old guides, have cause for regret when I feel that my strength is failing, when I feel how much worse my wind and my legs are than they were ten years ago. With time and patience I may yet for a few years be able to make excursions in the mountain region that I love so well. I trust that I may be long able to enjoy that mountain beauty, the love of which, as one of our members has written, 'if not stronger than the love of woman, is more enduring.'

THE DREI ZINNEN AND MARMAROLE. By W. E.  
UTTERSON-KELSO.

SCHLUDERBACH is a good head-quarters for mountaineers, and the accommodation of the little inn has been lately much increased by the addition of a 'dépendance' on the opposite side of the road—at the same time, it is said, that Herr Ploner and his good wife have extended their ideas as to the increased dimensions of English pockets, and the gullibility of British tourists; with all this, however, neither host nor hostess are bad people, as the world goes, and the inn is very comfortable both as regards fare and accommodation.

Schluderbach is nearly, if not quite, 800 feet higher than Cortina, and distant from it some ten miles by the high road. At least four different cols may be taken in going across country between the two places; the finest is the glacier pass of the Cristall Joch. Monte Cristallo and Piz Popena form together a noble and stupendous natural gateway to this pass, which is neither a long nor generally at all a difficult one until late in the season. Its attractions are, in my opinion, greater when it is taken from Schluderbach. Mr. Trueman and I crossed it from Cortina in July, with Santo Siorpaes, and the following day I recrossed it alone; fresh snow had fallen in the interim, filling up many of our steps, so that I had to open new ones where the descent was steep for a certain distance below the top on the Cortina side. The ascent of Monte Cristallo is made from the col itself; Santo related to me how he had once made it with two Prussian students, whom he greatly praised for never having required the use of the rope either up or down. I have never made the ascent, but have heard it spoken of as one of the more difficult of the Ampezzo Dolomites.

Stretching at the foot of lofty pineclad precipices, between Schluderbach and Landro, with a glacier and savage crags in