

knowledge, to be fairly equalled. The view towards Italy, the magnificent view of Mont Blanc, the grand basin of the upper glacier, the icefall, still noble in its decay, may be separately equalled elsewhere; but I do not think that any pass, even in the Oberland or at Zermatt, presents so marvellous a combination. The Col des Hirondelles, shut in by the Jorasses, must have but a limited prospect if any, of the great peaks. To my mind, its great charm is in the wild Glacier de Freboutzie, which is the perfection of savage seclusion. I always love these recesses of the great chasm, where the spirits that haunt solitudes have not yet been finally exorcised. Centuries will elapse at our present rate of progress before the Freboutzie will become a sight-seer's glacier, and perhaps by that time it will be a glacier no more. All that I can fairly claim, however, for our new pass is that it may afford a useful alternative to the Col du Géant; but it is eminently beautiful, though decidedly inferior to its superlatively beautiful rival. Moreover, no true Alpine traveller can look at it from the Montanvert without wishing to cross it. If he does, it is my last warning to him that the descent towards Italy, easy enough when the right way is known, requires some local knowledge or careful steering. May our successors have as good fortune as fell to our lot in this as in all other respects. If so, I have no fear that they will be ungrateful to the fortunate discoverers of this, amongst the most familiar of all great Alpine passes as part of a view, though the last to be recognised as a practicable route.

ALPINE NOTES.

THE SOUTHERN ALPS OF NEW ZEALAND.—The following extract from a despatch from Sir G. F. Bowen to the Earl of Kimberley, dated Wellington, New Zealand, February 20, 1873, has been forwarded for publication.

‘A graphic and scientific description of the Southern Alps, explaining their geology and physical geography, will be found in the twenty-first chapter of Dr. Hochstetter's work, which embodies the researches of Dr. Hector, Dr. Haast, and other explorers and naturalists.

‘The Southern Alps proper commence south of the Saddle between the Teramakan and Hurnuni rivers, on the boundary between the provinces of Nelson and Canterbury. Here, in the middle of the southern island, the mountains attain their greatest height, and as far as Haast's Pass, on the boundary of the province of Otago, leading from

Lake Wanaka to the west coast, a distance of 200 miles, they form, in the direction from N.E. to S.W., a chain of towering mountains, which, as to the height of their summits, and as to the size and extent of their snow-fields and glaciers, rival the Pennine and Rhætian Alps. The first navigators on the coast of New Zealand looked already with wonder at those magnificent Alpine heights, clothed in perpetual snow, the giant summits of which now bear the names of Cook and Tasman. The wild forms of the huge rocky masses on the west coast, towering to the skies and bidding defiance to the terrific breakers, were always an object of deep admiration to the sailors visiting these shores; but up to our times, this mountain region remained a wilderness untrodden by the foot of man. On the discovery of New Zealand it was uninhabited, for the natives shunned this solitary mountain wilderness, and it has remained uninhabited to this very day; incontestably one of the most remarkable and grandest objects which have been reserved for the physico-geographical and geological investigations of our times.

‘As members of the Alpine Club have already scaled even the peaks of the Caucasus and of North America, it is hoped that some of them may one day be induced to devote their courage, skill, and experience to the full exploration of the Alps of New Zealand. I would repeat that the colonial authorities would doubtless give every assistance in their power to an enterprise which could not fail to add largely to the general stock of geographical, geological, and botanical knowledge.’

BRÈCHE DE LA CHARRIÈRE AND COL DE LA CASSE DÉSERTE.—Mr. W. M. Pendlebury and Mr. Coolidge have, on comparing notes, found that in the passages from La Grave to La Berarde made last summer by their respective parties, two distinct cols were traversed. Mr. Coolidge was therefore in error in identifying the routes, and in fancying he had been preceded.

The Col de la Casse Déserte, first completely traversed last July by Mr. Coolidge, lies between the Grande Ruine and the Tête de la Charrière, that is to say to the north of the latter summit. On the other hand, the new pass made last June by Mr. Pendlebury and his companions, and named by them Brèche de la Charrière, is situated between the Roche d’Alvan and the Tête de la Charrière, in other words, to the south of the latter peak. The two passes lie on opposite sides of a lofty mountain, and differ considerably in height, the Brèche de la Charrière being the lower of the two by from 700 to 800 feet.

TOUR DU GRAND ST. PIERRE, August 12, 1873.—Mr. Utterson Kelso, with Daniel Ballay and Jeantet of Cogne, made the second ascent of this mountain and the first in one day from Cogne. Leaving the village at 1.30 A.M. the party reached the summit at 9.45 A.M., and returned by 2.45 P.M. Ballay discovered a new way to the top after surmounting the steep iceslope, thus avoiding the rock ridge which gave some trouble to the first climbers.

THE ROTHORN.—Mr. F. Morshead, with Melchior Anderegg and Christian Lauener, started from the Zinal hut on August 9, 1873, and crossed over the top of the Rothorn to Zermatt in the astonishingly short space of nine hours (halts included).

The peak must have been unusually free from ice, but its assailants were probably three as light movers over difficult rocks as can anywhere be found. Climbers will do well not to conclude too hastily that the Rothhorn has reached the 'easy morning walk' stage in that degradation which some of the great peaks have recently undergone.

THE COLS DE BRENEY AND DE LA SERPENTINE.—The following note has been received from Mr. T. Brooksbank:—

'The nomenclature of the surroundings of the Breney glacier is somewhat confused, though, given the actual appellations, Nature has almost distributed them for us, as a glance at the federal map will show.

'In ascending the Pigno d'Arolla from the Pas de Chévres, you have a vertical height of more than 3,000 feet to surmount, and the vast snow-field from the Pigno lies towards the north in two great terraces or plateaux, each approached by a steep incline. On August 18, 1873, the snow being good, I gained, in 1 hr. 35 m. from the Pas de Chévres, the first of these terraces called by Mr. Moore (*Alp. Journ.*, vol. v. p. 312) the Col de Breney, but in reality the Col de la Serpentine, the real Col de Breney being the second and higher terrace, which I reached in about an hour more. From the Col de la Serpentine the glacier, which is properly called de la Serpentine, flows down S.S.W. between the Mont Blanc de Cheillon, N., and the peak of the Serpentine S., and at the foot of the Serpentine ridge it loses itself in the Breney glacier, which, springing from the higher terrace, flows in a direction nearly parallel to the Serpentine glacier, between the Serpentine peaks N., and the Pic d'Otemma chain S. I think that they should properly be called separate glaciers, for they are separated by a range which attains to upwards of 12,000 ft., and though they rise in the same névé there is a difference of some hundreds of feet between the levels of their respective sources.

'On August 22, Mr. Hayward and I, with Kaspar and Jacob Blatter (all strangers to our route), left the inn at Mauvoisin at 3.45. We crossed the bridge a mile up the valley, at once mounting somewhat rapidly, and so kept for 2½ hrs. skirting the mountain, till we approached a very small tarn which, though the federal map has a dotted track west of it, we left below us. We got to the Breney moraine at 6.45, took to the glacier at once, and at 8.15 halted for breakfast at its point of confluence with the Serpentine glacier. The view hence, looking up the icefalls of both glaciers, the Rouinette and Mont Blanc de Cheillon on the left, the Serpentine in the midst, and the Otemma peaks on the right, was magnificent; while behind us lay the fine Tour de Boussine, the Durand glacier and Col de Sonadon, the Mont Avril and Col de Fenêtre, the Mont Gelé and the Col de la Crête Sèche.

'The icefall of the Breney is neither long nor difficult; in an hour, half by the rocks, half by the ice, we reached the névé above it; but it would be a better course to take to the ice as soon as possible and bear obliquely across the glacier, for the cannonade of falling stones from the Serpentine is heavy and frequent. Thence 2¼ hrs. of snow-

slopes, gentle but rather soft, brought us to the Col de Breney, and in an easy 20 m. more we stood on the Pigno d'Arolla.*

'From the Pigno, in about 90 min., the snow being in wonderful condition for downhill going, we scampered to the Pas de Chévres, and from its summit reached the Arolla inn in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. The excursion is one of the most varied I have ever made, and it presents a succession of the grandest views; sleeping at Mauvoisin makes it a comfortable day's journey, and it is, I should think, hardly longer thence than it would be from the Chanrion huts. The choice for the night now lies between them and that inn, for the chalet at Lancet was closed this year, and the laudable project of opening a small inn there has broken down. The distance looks on the map very great, but we were out only 13 hrs., of which actual walking occupied little more than 11.'

THE PELMO.—The following letter has been received from Mr. Packe in correction of a footnote to the article on the Pelmo in which it was stated that in his and Mrs. Packe's ascent the way described in the Journal had been followed. The curious similarity in character and even detail of the two routes which lead to the upper portion of the mountain, at first misled both Mr. Packe and the Editor. To avoid further mistake and confusion, it may be stated that the route taken by Mr. Ball and Mr. Freshfield starts where the ridge dividing the Zoppé and Ampezzo valleys abuts against the Pelmo; Mr. Packe's from the opposite, or south-west corner of the mountain. The gap between the Great and Little Pelmo might probably also be reached by step-cutting from Val Fiorentina. Some climbers should go up one way and come down the other, and draw a comparison between the two.

'I have read the "Ascent of the Pelmo" in the last number of the Journal with much interest and attention, and both my wife and I feel convinced that the route there described was different from that by which we ascended.

'Two reasons alone will show that our course must have been different. First, in our ascent along the ledges, our left shoulder was always to the rocks, and our right to the precipice; whereas, in the sketch (which represents the party on the ascent) it is the reverse. Secondly: in no part of our course did the cornice above come sufficiently low to force us to lie down, or, as far as I remember, even to stoop; though at one corner, there was a rift in the rock to step over, quite as formidable as that represented in the sketch.

'I am not well acquainted with the names or positions of the villages on the south side of the Pelmo, or the glens that lead up from them, but from the scanty notes I took, I believe I can give our course pretty correctly.

'Our guides were Angelo Dimaj and Alessandro Lacedelli of Cortina. Starting from this place about 10 A.M., July 21, 1870, we

* The Col de Breney is perhaps scarcely a Col in a strict sense, for the Serpentine peak, its boundary to the S.W., is hardly, if at all, higher than itself. In ascending the Breney glacier, however, you reach a point whence the Cheillon glacier flows down at right angles to your course, and there is nothing higher than this point, except the Pigno itself.

descended in a carriage along the road to St. Vito. Here we took to our feet, and crossing several woody ridges, thickly tangled with flowers and brushwood, we skirted the southern flank of the Pelmo till we emerged on an open grassy plateau, I should suppose to the S.W. of the Pelmo summit, but I have no note of the compass-bearing.

‘On this spot we camped for the night, my guide mentioning some village (if I remember rightly, Brusadaz,) at about an hour’s distance below, to which we might have descended. Upon the adjacent rocks there was a profusion of *Pæderota Bonarota*, *Campanula Morettiana* and *Aquilegia Henkiana*, the first rather past flowering, but the last two in full bloom.

‘The next morning we started at 4.30 A.M. A gentle ascent of 20 min. over undulating ground brought us to a grassy mamelon, forming an outlying buttress of the mountain. Here we left the heavier portion of our provisions, and at once commenced to climb N.E. up a very steep rocky gully, which separates the detached shoulder, described by Mr. Freshfield as “the antediluvian cub crouching beside its parent.” In this part of the ascent, partly over snow, partly over rocks, though the rope was sometimes brought into use, there was nothing very formidable. When at the foot of the ridge which unites the cub to its parent, we turned to the right, traversing transversely a steep talus of schist, with a precipice below, but at some metres distance. After passing this we reached a corner, where the rock came down vertically from above, falling in the same way below; and here the difficulty commenced. For about an hour we were passing along a ledge, which wound round the recesses of the mountain, in one place entirely riven away by a rent in the face of the rock, across which we had to step, while the stones we dislodged fell with a sheer descent to a depth which the eye dared not fathom, but which might have been some 600 metres beneath our feet.

‘It is this system of ledges on the face of the perpendicular rock, which, moreover, is crumbling in its nature, that forms the difficulty of the Pelmo; and these cannot be escaped, though they may be varied, approach it from whatever side you will; but, that ours was not the same ledge as that by which Mr. Freshfield mounted is, I think, at once evident from the reasons I have alleged, that our left hand was always to the mountain in ascending, and that there was no place where we were compelled to crawl.

‘On emerging from this ledge, the precipice on our left hand broke back, and I take it here we had reached the same spot as that reached by Mr. Freshfield from the opposite side. At any rate, from this spot, his description would exactly apply to our route till we reached the summit, which was still about 1,000 metres above us. All serious difficulty was at an end. Our course lay over steep rocks, laced with streams descending from the glacier, and the only vegetation that attracted my notice was here and there the bright yellow flowers of the Alpine poppy. Above these rocks comes the glacier basin, which we crossed, like Mr. Freshfield avoiding the lower ridges on the left, and keeping to the right close to the highest crags of the Pelmo, which we at last reached after a rough and laborious escalade.

'We seem to have been more favoured than our successors. The day was beautiful, but the view perhaps scarcely came up to what I had expected. The most striking mountain was the towering form of the Antelao, which now came into view for the first time during our course that day. The red crags of the Tofana to the north, were also imposing, but to me the most interesting object was the little town of Cortina, which lay nestled apparently almost at the foot of the mountain, though distant nearly 20 kilometres. With the aid of my telescope I could just discern that there were carts and people in the streets. On the very summit of the Pelmo, 3,163 metres (10,377 ft.), I gathered a fine specimen of *Draba tomentosa*, a plant common enough on the limestone rocks of the Pyrenees at from 2,200 to 2,400 metres, but I have never seen it at any height at all approaching this. I noticed no other flowering plant.

'We remained on the summit from 11.30 to 1 P.M., and then returned by exactly the same route, traversing the same ledge, but this time, of course, with our right shoulders to the rock. After a halt at our camp of the preceding night, we made the best of our way down to St. Vito, which we reached at 7, and drove thence in our carriage to Cortina the same evening.

'The mountain of course may be done quicker, but I give the times, if any other lady should like to try the ascent. In many a traveller the weird sphynx-like form of the Pelmo, as seen from the north, must excite a longing to explore its mysteries. I will only add that anyone intending the ascent cannot do better than secure the services of our guides, with whom in this, as well as in other excursions, we had every reason to be satisfied. Angelo Dimaj, especially, may be trusted in a difficulty, should one occur.'

THE GERMAN ALPINE CLUB AND TYROLESE GUIDES.—Herr Koch, a member of the Munich section of the Deutschen Alpen Verein, has addressed the following letter to the President of the Alpine Club:—
'Dear Sir,—I have read with the greatest interest your letter in the "Times," in which you demand a full explanation from the guides with regard to the awful death of the Russian, and I have also considered your proposal for regulating the Alpine guide system in Switzerland. It would perhaps interest you to know how the German Alpine Club has proceeded in this question in the mountains of Tyrol, more particularly as on some points they have diverged from your proposals. The German Alpine Club, of which I have the honour to be a member, has succeeded in bringing the guides entirely under the control of travellers, inasmuch as they have to give the guide a written testimonial. In a few places in Tyrol, as for instance Kals, Heiligenblut, Preggratten, they have, chiefly through the great exertions of C. Hofman, who heroically fell at the battle of Sedan, and his friend Stüdl in Prague, established Guide-Unions. The members of these unions elect one of their number as President, whose duty it is to manage affairs, to appoint the guides required for ascents, and to act as cashier. It is also his duty to superintend the huts, paths, &c. The funds are kept up by a contribution of a fixed percentage from wages earned in ascents, and

are applied to the maintenance of huts, the purchase of books and maps, and to the relief of members in need, or in case of accidents.

'Every member of the "Guides' Union" must be licensed by the Government. The license is obtained from the office of State, with which the Alpine Club has beforehand placed itself in communication, is only granted to men of undoubted character, who are healthy and strong, and have made several ascents successfully.

'The guide receives, together with the license, an officially stamped book called "the Guide's Book," which is numbered, fixes the quantity of rope required, the scale of charges and other rules. This book must, on demand, be produced to every traveller, who can on inspection easily satisfy himself what ascents, and with what amount of success, the holder has accomplished, and how much satisfaction he has given. The traveller is required, before commencing a tour, to insert his name and destination, and at the end of the journey he is obliged to add whether or no he was satisfied with the guide. In order to obtain good testimonials, a guide will take every conceivable trouble, because contrary testimonials would injure him in his calling in the highest degree; he would not be engaged by travellers for ascents, he would be excluded from the Union, and eventually lose his license.

'Besides this, the guide is aware that travellers are in most cases members of one or other of the Alpine Clubs, and that they could injure him, either by verbal information or by communications printed in the organ of their Club. The guide's book is at the end of each year inspected by the local authorities (magistrates), and, in case of no complaints therein, renewed. The German Alpine Club also derives much information by the inspection of these guides' books.

'Should a traveller desire to be accompanied by any one particular guide, no obstacle is thrown in the way, and his wishes are complied with.

'Since these regulations have been in force the jealousies previously prevalent have entirely disappeared; a general desire to co-operate has sprung up, more especially in erecting huts, and the zeal for acquiring the knowledge required for their particular calling has increased. To my knowledge there has been no complaint, since these regulations have been in force, against any member of the Guides' Unions, and the guides in some parts of the Tyrol have already a good name and reputation.'

It is to the exertions of the foreign Alpine Clubs that we must look for a remedy against the incompetence and extortions of the 'bureaux' a tourist-centres. The Swiss, German, and Italian Clubs do well to use the powerful local influences at their command in the endeavour to raise a school of guides in every valley. In Italy lists of efficient guides are being drawn up in each village by the local members of the national club, and a tariff arranged under the Club's sanction. In the less frequented valleys guides will always be found glad to earn the wages mountaineers are willing to pay for honest service. When it comes to be well understood that foreign guides will go up Piz Bernina or Mont Blanc for 40 or 50 francs, the local talent will have to wait long for a traveller who will submit to be fined 80 or 100.

There is, indeed, one small class, the members of which will be

unaffected by this consideration, and will probably continue, despite any remonstrances of ours, to do their best to frustrate every effort to settle on a fixed and satisfactory basis the relations between travellers and guides. We refer to the tourist, sometimes English, who, inasmuch as his object is to appear what he is not, may be distinguished from true climbers as the 'climbing snob.' He may generally be recognised by his careful avoidance of glacier passes, which he considers laborious and unprofitable. He is anxious, for the sake of the boast only, to reach the top of one, or perhaps two, of the most famous peaks. To insure the accomplishment of this purpose he engages a staff of guides sufficiently strong to hoist a burden of his weight and size to the desired pinnacle. But the situation of a sack is not always pleasant for an animate object; the guides, moreover, are apt to take a malicious pleasure in exciting the fears of their employer; so that the experiences of his expedition divide themselves simply enough into 'the difficulties of getting up, and the horrors of coming down.' The pleasure he looks for is in the future, and begins only when, brought back safe to his inn, he can glorify himself and his exploit by distributing among his escort double or treble the sum which they have been accustomed to ask.

To a man of this sort, who illustrates the old quotation by going up mountains

'Ut pueris placeat et declamatio fiat,'

we cannot appeal as to a fellow-climber. But there is one reflection we would urge on his notice. How far does he succeed in his object? 'To the boys who tie him up in ropes,' to speak in his own dialect, he certainly becomes a perpetual pleasure, but it is because 'der armer Herr,' with his troubles and misadventures, affords them a subject for innumerable stories with which to enliven the bivouacs of their regular employers. Thus the fame which awaits the climbing snob is also to some extent our revenge.

We have wandered somewhat from the topics immediately suggested by Dr. Koch's letter. The German Alpine Club may be sincerely congratulated on the success of its endeavours, and it will have the hearty good wishes of English climbers in pursuing its present course. The key of its system evidently lies in the establishment of close relations between a body exerting to the full its influence as the national Alpine Club, and upright and intelligent local administrators. If we find greater difficulty at Chamonix it must be remembered that we are acting in a country which possesses as yet no Alpine Club, and until lately has had only provisional prefects.

MEDIAEVAL ROUTES ACROSS THE EASTERN ALPS.—Mr. George sends the following note: 'Frederick Barbarossa, when conducting a large army into Italy in 1158, ordered one division of it (the Austrian and Carinthian contingents) to go "per Canalem et Forum Julii atque marcam Veronensem." These are the words of the contemporary Ragewin, continuator of Otto of Freisingen (*Gesta Frederici* III. 25); and the only modern historian in whom I have been able to find any reference to the same fact merely translates the Latin words (*über Canale und*

Friaul). I presume the route in question to have been that of the Tarvis Pass, which was certainly used in the Middle Ages; but what is the meaning of the name Canalis? The Venetians are said to have applied this term, familiar in their own city, to the valleys running up into the Alps; but the word is here used at a date long before the period of Venetian domination, and therefore some other interpretation must be sought. Can any reader supply information on this specific point, or on the more general question of the ancient routes across this part of the Alps?

In 'The Eastern Alps,' (p. 539) Mr. Ball says: 'The valley below Tarvis is often called Gailitzthal; but the hybrid name Canalethal is more frequently given collectively to the single valley that includes the course of the Gailitz, and the headwaters of the Fella, as far down as Pontebba.' This seems the explanation of the words 'per Canalem,' sought by Mr. George, and at the same time a proof of the correctness of his theory as to the route taken by Barbarossa's army. There is, I believe, authority in late Latin for the use of 'canalis' in the sense of a natural water-channel, and 'Canale (canalium via),' is one of the 'verba expulsa' of Forcellini's lexicon. It seems quite as easy to believe that both the applications of the term have sprung directly from the Latin word, as that one is derived from the other by a fanciful analogy.

'The passes of the Middle Ages' is a chapter in Alpine literature which is still unwritten. Some of the now deserted roads of the Venetian and Lombard Alps were once the world's highways. The Field of Charlemagne and a church said to have been standing in his days are found in Val Rendena. Barbarossa in 1166 passed through Val Camonica. Readers of the 'Alpine Journal' would be grateful to anyone who could bring into a collected form the scattered facts bearing on this interesting subject.

D. W. F.

JAKOB ANDEREGG.—Mr. Moore wishes to acknowledge the following additional subscriptions received; viz.: R. Dees, 5*l.*; A. Johnson, 1*l.*; T. G. Bonney, 10*s.*; E. Clayton, 10*s.*; S. E. D., 1*l.* 1*s.*; C. T. Dent, 2*l.* 2*s.*; T. S. Kennedy, 2*l.* 2*s.*; A. Wills, 1*l.* 1*s.*; Captain Marshall Hall, 12*fr.* 50*c.*; Mr. Flinn, 5*fr.*; E. C., 10*fr.*; Sir H. Thompson, 20*fr.*; E. W. Wilmot, 20*fr.*; T. Biffel, 5*fr.*; G. Chater, 10*s.*; H. Hutton, 1*l.*; J. Stogdon, 1*l.*; J. Robertson, 1*l.*; W. Bushell, 5*s.*; W. J. Bull, 5*s.*

CHAMONIX GUIDES.

The following answer was sent by the Guide Chef to the letter of the President printed in the last number:—

'Chamonix, le 2 novembre 1873.

'Monsieur le Président,—En réponse à votre lettre du 20 octobre dernier, j'ai l'honneur de vous dire que M. le professeur Fedchenko Alexis était parti le 14 septembre à cinq heures du matin de l'Hôtel des Alpes à Chamonix avec un guide et un porteur de son propre choix; il ne s'est pas adressé à la Compagnie des Guides, que je dirige, aussi la