

'— Nous ne pouvons pas nous passer de cet article, me fut-il répondu; si vous ne l'approuvez pas, la majeure partie des guides sérieux se retire de la Compagnie.

'Que faire? On me cita des faits, et j'approuvai!'

The manner in which the revision was made is curiously illustrated by this frank confession. The 62nd article was, we are told, retained against the better sense of the préfet, in consequence of threats on the part of some of the guides—threats which no one acquainted with Chamonix could have imagined serious.

We wish Mons. Philippe had gone on to explain how he purposed to give effect to this 'Article,' and what is the exact nature of the 'pains and penalties' reserved for free discussion under the French Republic, which had he remained in office he would have been prepared, if sufficiently threatened, to inflict upon the critics of Chamonix.

But this rule, though a fair subject for a passing laugh, is quite beneath serious criticism. If it pleases Chamonix it does not hurt us. Should another préfet be found ready to sanction it we shall not protest against its retention.

The judiciousness of the more important modifications made in 1872 in the Chamonix règlement must be decided, as Mons. Philippe reasonably says, by their results. Judged by this test they have been generally condemned.

ALPINE NOTES.

FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS.*—The founders of our Alpine Club, like those of most great institutions, had little idea of the impulse they were about to give throughout the whole of civilised Europe to mountain exploration, or of the wide-spread organisations which would arise out of the social meetings of a few English oromaniacs—if the word may be coined.

For the first five years the seed sown did not multiply. It was not until 1862 that the second Alpine Club, the Austrian, was founded at Vienna. In the following year the Swiss Club, now numbering nearly 1,500 members, and the Italian, now numbering over 1,200 members, had their origin. The German Club, lately united with the Austrian, was not established until 1869. Of all these bodies brief notices have appeared from time to time in these pages. But the English Club has other children of whose existence we believe many of its members are unaware. The 'Verein der Gebirgsfreunde in Steyermark,' has its centre at Gratz, counts 500 members, publishes an annual volume, and spends part of its income in improving mountain paths and building huts. The 'Club Alpino del Trentino' is a body founded only in 1873, but which has begun well, some of its members having already climbed the Presanella and the Brenta Alta. At Pinzolo and Primiero

* Many of the facts mentioned in this notice are derived from a short article on 'Les Sociétés Alpines,' in the last 'Bollettino' of the Italian club.

it has a noble field before it, and as it counts among its members many of the leading hotel-keepers of the country, it is reasonable to look for improvements in inns and paths which will render more generally accessible the exquisite scenery of Val Rendena and the neighbourhood of Molveno. The opening, last year, of the old hospice at La Madonna di Campiglio as a pension, is a first and an important step in this direction.

At Cracow a Carpathian Club has just sprung into being. Under, it seems, German influence, a 'Vogesen Club' has lately been started in Elsass.

In France the only similar society has up to the present time been the 'Société Raymond' of the Pyrenees, a small body (founded 1865) of under 100 members. But at last steps have been taken by some eminent Frenchmen, among them Mons. Cézanne, the deputy for the 'Hautes Alpes,' Colonel Mieulet, the maker of the French map of Mont Blanc, and Mons. Joanne, to found a National Club of a somewhat extended character. 'Ouvrez votre porte toute grande; militaires et savans, jeunes et vieux, même les femmes, même les étrangers, tous ceux qui aiment la France et la montagne, que tous soient appelés,' writes one of its promoters.

It is this absence of insistence as a qualification for membership on the candidate's having given some active proof of love for the mountains which distinguishes all these Societies from our own, and accounts for their large numbers. The English Club does not, as foreign writers sometimes imagine, absolutely require a candidate to have expended a certain amount of muscular energy in struggles against the law of gravity. But it requires that if he does not climb he shall have shown his devotion to the Alps in some other way, and shall have contributed, whether by literary, scientific, or artistic activity, to their better knowledge. In some cases we may think this test has been too completely dispensed with abroad; but in France, where interest in mountains is not as yet widely extended, its enforcement would probably be fatal to the object in view. In the absence of other converts, baptism has often been conferred wholesale by missionaries, rather in the hope of pledging the recipients for the future than because their conduct or convictions rendered them at present worthy of the rite. The promoters of Alpine pursuits in France may fairly claim a similar license. The French Alpine Club, whatever its construction, will have the warm sympathy of all English mountaineers, and any help in dealing with such subjects as guide-organisation or local tariffs which our experience may enable us to offer will be gladly given.

THE PONTRESINA TARIFF FOR 1873.—The guides of Pontresina formed themselves some time ago into an association, which, after sundry changes, has, since the retirement of Fluri and Walther, come under the headship of Hans Grass, probably the best man in the Upper Engadine. A new tariff was published in 1873, for which, if any trust can be put in common report and internal evidence, that guide and Peter Jenni, who is still on the roll, are jointly responsible. For the more ordinary excursions this tariff seems fair and reasonable, but

it is in one respect most objectionable, and in another very ludicrous. The three most tempting peaks, Piz Bernina (80 francs), Piz Roseg (100 francs), and the Monte della Disgrazia (170 francs), are each protected by a charge which will be generally deemed prohibitive. In the case of the Disgrazia the price of course includes the time spent in going and returning to Pontresina. Let us suppose, however, that the travellers use the Sella and Sissone Passes. If we allow 25 francs each for the passes, 10 francs for the half-day to the Sasso Bissolo chalet, and 40 francs for an ascent occupying from 5 to 7 hours (see *Alpine Journal*, Vol. V., p. 46 and p. 84), an overcharge of 70 francs still remains to be accounted for. The charge of 10 francs a day for a guide or porter, taken for a time, and away from home, is the highest of the kind in the Alps.

The charges just mentioned are a serious hindrance to mountaineers, but the new tariff contains others still more extravagant, yet which it is impossible to treat seriously. The Tschierva Sattel (called Güssfeldt Sattel), a local Eigher Joch, at 200 francs, is not likely to be often sought. But when Monte Zembrasca and the Pizzo di Teo, both lower than Piz Languard, and as difficult respectively as the Gornergrat and Riffelhorn, are quoted at 40 and 60 francs, Piz Kesch at 60 francs, the Cima del Largo at 80 francs,* and the Tinzenhorn at 100 francs, we can only imagine the framers of the tariff as either cruelly hoaxed or not quite in their sober senses at the time of its making.

A sufficient explanation of all these extravagant demands, which, in reply to the united remonstrances of the Swiss and English Alpine Clubs, the guides have declared their intention of maintaining, can easily be given. The very narrow experience of the men who compose the Pontresina bureau leads them to think too much of their own peaks. The nature of their ordinary occupation does not fit them for mountain emergencies. The Engadine peasantry are by nature well-to-do carters, employed in winter in conveying wine, in summer fruit and tourists, over the Bernina Pass. They have the instincts rather of the roadster than of the chamois-hunter. Colani has become a myth, and has left no successors. Consequently they look on step-cutting as a penance only to be undergone for an enormous recompense, and on a serious expedition are prone to exaggerate both the difficulties encountered and the importance of their own services. The sudden flood of foreign gold lately poured into the Engadine has disposed its inhabitants to revert to their natural tastes and the employments in which their horses' legs rather than their own earn the pay.

It seems, indeed, as if the disappearance of the old schools of Alpine guides would be one of the regrettable, but perhaps inevitable, results of the growing popularity of certain Swiss centres. The natives of Pontresina, Chamonix, even Grindelwald, are hardly to be blamed if, finding easier ways of earning money below the snow-level by cutting grottoes instead of steps, or by fastening themselves to mules' tails

* A Chamonix guide was paid for the *first* ascents of the Pizzo di Teo, Cima del Largo, and Tinzenhorn, 12, 20, and 25 francs, respectively. Fluri, being engaged for that expedition only, had somewhat more for the Cima del Largo.

instead of to ropes, they hand over their mountains to the needier peasantry of neighbouring valleys. It is no business of ours if they reject the narrow paths conducting to the Wetterhorn and Piz Bernina for the broad roads which lead to Interlaken and St. Moritz. Guides are of course everywhere free to fix their own value on their services, but we are equally at liberty to decline them at a fancy price. The practical result of persistence in unreasonable pretensions will be that English climbers will altogether cease to employ the men who make them. Swiss and German mountaineers, unless they have of late years grown suddenly prodigal, will take the same course, and such united action can hardly fail to produce a decided effect.

We recommend the Engadiners to study the list of Alpine tariffs to be found in Liebeskind's 'Notizbuch für Alpen-reisende.' There they will learn that the highest price ever asked outside their valley is 150 francs, and that this is for the passage of the Matterhorn from Zermatt to Breuil. They will find great snowpeaks like the Dom Aletschhorn and Monte Rosa charged 40 francs. If they can, let them persuade some traveller to take one of their number to Zermatt to discover what a difficult peak really is.

MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF THE ENGADINE.—The room left by the mountaineers whom the pretensions of the guides have driven to other districts, has as yet been amply filled by a crowd of pensioners and water-drinkers. It is to these that the Engadine looks for the continuance of its present prosperity.

It is as much in the interest of the villagers as of strangers that, using the privilege of old acquaintance, I intend to call attention to sundry grievances which during the past summer sorely tried, and in some cases overcame, British patience. 'Plentiful table-d'hôtes and a daily service'—the collocation is a lady-visitor's—are no doubt very soothing influences, but they will not suffice to retain our countrymen where they are exposed to dishonesty, and to rudenesses only excusable as the offspring of stupidity rather than of any evil intention.

In the first place the condition of the post-office at Pontresina was disgraceful. Letters directed 'Poste Restante' could only be obtained with great difficulty and exertion, and sometimes were never obtained at all. The postmaster in readiness for all inquiries had a stereotyped reply of 'nichts,' which he sometimes employed when the expected correspondence was lying before him. The more experienced visitors consequently adopted the irregular but excusable habit of watching the exit of the official, and taking advantage of his absence to rush in, overpower the small boy left in charge, and lay violent hands on their letters.

On my first arrival I confess to having felt a glow of liberal sympathy for the village policeman, whose last act of daring had been to arrest a prince's ponies for trotting in the street. But my enthusiasm faded when the same official pounced on an elderly English lady, returning from her botanical rambles with a specimen of the *pinus cembra*, and detained her in the rudest custody on the charge of 'mutilating the communal forest' until a fine of four francs had been paid. After this I never picked a flower without a fear lest all the

gentians might be preserved by the manufacturers of Iva, or the edelweiss contracted for by the St. Moritz bouquetières.

Moreover, let the aggrieved or defrauded foreigner beware how he invokes the aid of the law in the Upper Engadine. The inefficiency of the local magistracy to administer justice in petty matters, and especially to hold the balances even where a foreigner is concerned, is unfortunately not confined to the Engadine, but has become a universal source of complaint with travellers throughout Switzerland.

In some cantons it doubtless arises from the dependent position of the 'judge' in daily life; amusingly illustrated by an incident which lately happened to a member of the Club. Our countryman had been sufficiently cheated to make him seek justice. On coming into court, however, his case, which he imagined conclusive, was ignominiously dismissed. When, half-an-hour later, he sent for a barber, he was promptly waited on by a peasant whose face seemed familiar. It was his late judge, who had speedily exchanged the sword and scales for the razor and basin, perhaps more appropriate symbols of Swiss justice as usually shown to strangers.

The Upper Engadine, however, has long been celebrated for its independent peasant proprietors, and there is no reason to believe that any member of its magistracy could, or would, plead as an excuse the impossibility of offending a daily customer. Yet here, as elsewhere, 'the judge' is but too often a worthy successor of Justice Shallow, ready when called on 'to bear out a knave against an honest man,' provided only that the knave be his countryman, and therefore 'worthy to be countenanced.'

In private manners, as well as in official customs, there is great room for reform.

In the morning, when the success of the expedition hangs perhaps on an hour's delay, you find the men whom you have paid as guides slothful and indifferent to everything but their personal comfort. Later in the day you observe others, nominally in charge of a party of ladies on the Roseg or Mortaratsch glacier, slouching along at their own gait, never thinking of offering any assistance, and too dull or too lazy even to be able to point out the easiest track. In the evening you sit for a while in the 'gaststube,' watching through the clouds of smoke the shaggy, ungainly forms and slow lumbering movements of the boors who surround you, and listening to the indistinct but expressive grunts and roars which take the place of speech. A speculation which has for some time been pressing itself on your attention recurs with increased force. Here is a field for carrying out, in a fresh direction, the great modern theory of development—your companions are surely lineal descendants, not very far removed, of the bears which still haunt their mountains.

This year I fell upon the missing link in an *ursa major* who held possession of the inn on the Maloya, and took advantage of the terror his manners inspired to charge twenty centimes for a glass of water and to detain ladies until they could furnish him with the necessary coppers. When bearded, the roar of this interesting animal was audible halfway down the zigzags to Casaccia. The injuries he inflicted were,

however, hardly equal to the amusement afforded by his extraordinary uncouthness.

A serious source of complaint at Pontresina was the disappearance of any object lost sight of by a moment's carelessness. A cloak dropt on the road, or a field-glass left on a bench, was snapped up in the space of five minutes, and subsequent inquiry seldom succeeded in inducing the restoration of the treasure-trove to its disconsolate owner. It is not intended to accuse the villagers as a body of dishonesty. The losses may for the most part be laid to the charge of the men, many of them natives of the neighbouring cantons, who drive the 'bergwägen,' or to the labourers employed on the buildings always going on. I fully believe that the bad impression given by the people of Pontresina to some of our countrymen is entirely owing to their unfortunate manners. Limited experience of the world with which they have suddenly been brought into contact leads them too often to mistake mistrust of a visitor's veracity for business-like caution. But even the latter excellent quality may be carried too far. When valuable property is stolen from a bedroom, the people of the house should, in their own interest, show some concern, and not add to the indignation of the owner by treating every mention of its loss with indifference and an appearance of incredulity. I have particularly wished to avoid injuring individuals, but instances of each of the matters complained of could, if necessary, be brought forward.

Fashions change and doctors differ—even with their own former opinions. At the present moment the Dolomites are becoming rapidly popular. The Trentino is about to be opened up by a local Alpine Club, consisting in some part of innkeepers; and it is proposed to build at Santa Catarina a comfortable hotel for foreign water-drinkers. The people of Pontresina will be foolish if, while they hasten to erect large new inns, they do not also use every means in their power to satisfy their guests, and prevent them from proceeding to the discovery of new resorts equally healthy, and where the mountains are not built out by rival speculators.

The Orteler group does not yield in scenery to the Bernina, and you can ascend the Königspitze for 25 and the Tresero for 12 francs!—D. W. F.

MEDIEVAL ROUTES ACROSS THE EASTERN ALPS.—The following note has been received from Mr. F. F. Tuckett:—

'I have suggested to my friend, Mr. George, an answer to his question in the last number of the *Journal*, as to the meaning of *Canalis* in the expression of Raguewin, "*per Canalem et Forum Julii*," which is, I believe, satisfactory to him.

'In the first place, I take it that the passes in the Alps made use of in the middle ages were, in at least the great majority of cases, those which had previously been opened up in Roman times. Of the various classes of roads constructed by the Romans, the first and most important were the *Via militares*, *consulares*, *pretorianæ*, and *decurionales*, maintained for strategic purposes at the expense of the state. No less than seventeen belonging to this category were carried over various portions of the Alpine chain. Omitting, for brevity's sake, further

reference to the first ten, the 11th, reckoning from W. to E., was that over the Brenner; the 12th, that which, diverging from the latter above Brixen, traversed the Pusterthal, and, crossing the pass or watershed near Toblach, connected the head waters of the Eisack with those of the Drau or Drave. The 13th, passing through the modern towns of Udine and Trigesimo ("Ad Tricesimum" of the Itin. Ant.), and striking the course of the Tilaventus (Tagliamento) at Glemona (Gemona), ascended it to Julium Carnicum (Zuglio, between Tolmezzo and Paluzzo), and traversed the Carnic Alps by the Pass of Sta. Croce (4,337 feet) to the Gail Thal,* finally joining No. 12 below Loncium (Lienz) in the valley of the Drau. No 14 is believed by some to have diverged from No. 13 at a point nearly midway between Gemona and Tolmezzo, and then, ascending the modern Val del Ferro to Resiutta, Raccolana, and Pontebba, to have traversed the Tarvis Pass (2,682 feet—the lowest in the entire Alpine chain) and reached Villach viâ Tarvis, Arnoldstein, and the lower Gail Thal. Other authorities deny the existence of any such road in Roman times, but there is no doubt that for a long period it has constituted a very important and much-frequented means of communication between Italy and Germany. No. 15 followed the course of the Sontius (Isonzo), and, after passing the modern town of Görz or Gorizia, and the villages of Canale, Tolmein, Caporetto, Flitsch, and Preth, traversed the Julian Alps by the Predil Pass (3,822 feet), and, following the Gailitz to Raibl and Unter Tarvis, reached Villach by Arnoldstein and the lower Gail Thal. The 16th road parted from the preceding one before reaching Görz, ascended the Wippach Thal, and traversed the Mons Odra (Birnbaumer Wald?) by the Pass of Longaticum (Loitsch) to Aemona (Laibach) in the valley of the Sau or Save.

'Now all these four last-named routes had Aquileia (colonised B.C. 181—the most important town of the N.E. frontier of Italy both strategically and commercially) as their starting or meeting point, and though that place never recovered from its almost total destruction by Attila in A.D. 452, the old lines of communication opened up during its flourishing days continued in use, and were no doubt more or less practicable in the 12th century. At Aquileia, Julius Cæsar established the head-quarters of his legions in Cisalpine Gaul, and, in the names of Julium Carnicum (already alluded to) and Forum Julii (the modern Cividale), we have an allusion to the great leader.

'If, then, Barbarossa wished to pass the eastern wing of his army over the Julian or Carnic Alps, with a view to its joining the main body, led by himself over the Brenner, at Verona, though there is perhaps no abstract reason why either the line of the Pass of Sta. Croce, or that of the Tarvis Pass (if it then existed) should not have been selected, the chronicler's words "per Canalem et Forum Julii" at once limit the conditions of the problem. For an army traversing either of the last-named passes (No. 13 or 14) would almost necessarily leave Forum Julii (Cividale) to the E., whilst Canale would be still further removed from the line of route. The same remark would apply, though

* See 'The Dolomite Mountains,' pp. 177-180.

in a somewhat less degree, to No. 16. I believe then that the road over the Predil was that followed, not only because it would be as well suited for the "Austrian and Carinthian contingents" as the Tarvis Pass, but also because it would be as direct as the latter if Aquileia were avoided, and rather more so if it were visited, whilst by no other course could both Canale and Forum Julii be traversed. Forum Julii was not situated, like Canale, on the actual line of the Roman road, but it was only a short distance (10 to 15 miles perhaps) to the W. of Canale, though in a different valley, and, to a force descending by the line of the Isonzo, it was easily accessible from the village of Caporetto (19 miles above Canale) by a wide gap in the mountains through which the valley of the Vatisone is readily reached.

'Alboin the Longobard is said to have led his followers by the same route into Italy, and there is a tradition that the Königsberg, a dolomite peak near Raibl, derives its name from the circumstance of that chief having ascended it to reconnoitre. Be this as it may, the fact of his passing this way is of more importance as adding to the probability of its subsequent selection, and we may well imagine that a leader encumbered with large masses of men might, on reaching Caporetto, decide to relieve the pressure on a single line of road down a narrow valley by detaching a portion of his forces *viâ* Forum Julii, with a view to their re-uniting at Aquileia, or, if that city was not visited, at some point further to the N.; possibly in the neighbourhood of Udine.

'The translation of the expression "*per Canalem et Forum Julii*" by "*über Canale und Friaul*" is misleading, from want of precision. The modern Friuli (German, Friaul), the country of the ancient Carni, is a *province*, and its name is therefore not a proper rendering for the *town* of Forum Julii (the modern Cividale), though a corruption of the latter. I know nothing of the antiquity of Canale, but as there is such a place, and it is situated near the ancient Forum Julii, and on the direct line of the old Predil road, it seems to me reasonable to recognise in it the spot alluded to by Ragewin.'

A TUNNEL UNDER MONT BLANC.—Another sub-Alpine railway scheme has lately been started in Northern Italy. The proposed line, to be known as the '*Chemin de fer du Mont Blanc*,' would connect Turin with Geneva by means of the valleys of the Dora and the Arve, and a tunnel under Mont Blanc! Its promoters urge that it would shorten the journey between Paris and Turin by about 60 miles. We presume shafts would be dispensed with, otherwise there seems a possibility that by means of a lift a new and easy route might be opened to the '*calotte*' and the profits of the enterprise materially increased.

ROTHORN JOCH.—Zermatt to Zinal 11 or 12 hrs.; 8½ hrs. from Zermatt to Mountet. This pass was made for the first time (Sept. 5, 1872), by Mr. T. S. Phillpotts, with Peter Knubel as guide, and Elie Petter as porter. As compared with the Trift it has the advantage of having a finer view on both sides, on the one showing Mont Blanc, and all the aiguilles of Chamonix, as also the Grand Combin from some points; on the other revealing a grand view of the Matterhorn from the commencement of the descent, which is wanting in the Trift. Mr. Marshall Hall ascended the ridge in 1871, but did not descend on the

Zinal side. Followed the Trift route to the point where it leaves the moraine for the Trift glacier. Here we kept up the rocks on the right on to the Rothhorn glacier, passing a broad couloir which must be crossed quickly. Then rocks on left; then crossed a snow-slope to rocks, and then across the top of the small but much crevassed glacier which descends from Rothhorn to the foot of Trift Joch. Then struck the col nearest the Rothhorn; kept always to the right in descending, till we came under the rocks of Leblanc. This long détour was necessitated by the crevassed state of the Durand glacier in September. Earlier a much quicker and more direct course might be taken. The col is the easternmost of two naked depressions in the WSW. arête of the Rothhorn. It lies on the upper part of the little crevassed glacier which descends from the Rothhorn to the foot of the Trift Joch. To avoid the falling stones of this glacier, it was thought better to take to the rocks on the right of the point where the Trift route comes off the moraine on to the Trift glacier, and then to work to the left so as to strike the upper part of the glacier. Ascent easy. On the Zinal side the snow-slopes are a little steep, and the Durand glacier in September much crevassed.

ZINAL JOCH.—Mountet to Zermatt, 7 or 8 hrs. This col, which lies between the Dent Blanche and the Pointe de Zinal, may be called the true Col Zinal, as distinguished from the Trift, which sometimes has that name. This pass was made for the first time, September 6, 1872, by Mr. T. S. Philippotts, with Peter Knubel as guide, and Elie Petter as porter: 3 hrs. to summit from Mountet. Nearly 2 hrs. was taken descending on the right of the Schönbühl glacier to Stockje, but an hour might be saved by keeping on the left side of the Schönbühl glacier. Ascent and descent easy. The first part of south side much exposed to stones from Dent Blanche, and therefore had better be taken early, and from Zinal side. 2½ hrs. Stockje to Zermatt.

DISCOVERY ON THE RIFFELHORN.—The simple but exciting pastime of rolling big stones from the top of the Riffelhorn on to the glacier below was the means last autumn of bringing a curious relic to light. Two American travellers who were enjoying this exhilarating sport last August determined to signalise their visit by sending down a bolt of unusual magnitude. Having fixed upon a stone of such size that it was as much as two men could do to move it, they prized it with great difficulty from its bed, when to their surprise they found in the site thus laid bare a javelin or spear-head, which must have been lying under the stone for time indefinite. The weapon thus strangely discovered was of bronze, and may have been some seven or eight inches long; the workmanship was admirable, quite as good as the forging one sees now. The striking end was not pointed, but beaten out into a blade resembling a boldly rounded chisel; the other end must have fitted wedge fashion into a cleft shaft, and had two flanges on each side for the purpose apparently of holding the javelin head more firmly to the wood than could be done by any bending; of course bending must have been used in addition.

The American who had become the possessor of this valuable relic stated that he should, on his return home, submit it to some scientific

man competent to speak as to its possible date or period. It is to be hoped that this has been done, and that more may be heard of the javelin-head of the Riffelhorn. As it is not impossible that other weapons may be found near the place where this was discovered, it may be worth while for some travellers during the coming season to vary the sport of rolling down stones by a careful examination of the upper rocks of that often visited peak.

F. C. GROVE.

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