

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1874.

WESTERN ALPS.

DAUPHINÉ DISTRICT—COL DU ROCHE FAURIO, *July 1, 1874.*—The Rev. C. Taylor and R. Pendlebury, with Gabriel Spechtenhauser as guide, starting from the Chalets d'Alp, near the foot of the Glacier d'Arsine, ascended the valley to the Glacier de la Platte des Agneaux, and succeeded in reaching the ridge on the south of that glacier, which stretches from the Roche Faurio to the Crête du Glacier Blanc. The ascent was made by an extremely steep hanging glacier and partly by the difficult rocks on its right bank. The col is exactly opposite the point where the valley from the Platte des Agneaux turns into the Clos des Cavalles. The view from the summit was superb, including Mont Blanc and nearly all the principal Dauphiné peaks. The descent to the Glacier de l'Encula (or Blanc) was short and easy; and Ville Val Louise was reached by nightfall. The name Col du Roche Faurio is proposed for this pass, as the route lies nearer to that peak than to any other well-marked one. Both the Col de la Casse déserte and the Brèche de la Charrière were clearly seen from the summit, the latter lying much below the former. In height the new pass somewhat exceeds the Col de la Casse déserte.

COL DES ROUIES, *July 4.*—The same party, with an Italian porter, J. B. Girard, a quarryman of Val Louise, made a new pass over the shoulder of the Sommet des Rouies from the Val Godemar to La Bérarde. Starting from Le Clot, they reached the glacier which descends from the east shoulder of the Rouies in 3 hrs., and ascending by its left bank and higher up by a snow couloir, reached the ridge between the Rouies and the Pic Vaxivier in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. more, without the least difficulty. The descent to the Glacier du Chardon was steep and difficult, and La Bérarde was reached in 5 hrs. altogether from the col. As the name Col du Vaxivier appears to be sometimes given to the Col du Sais, it seems suitable to call the new pass the Col des Rouies.

MONT BLANC DISTRICT—COL DES GRANDES JORASSES, *July 17.*—The following note has been received from Mr. Middlemore:—

‘With Johann Jaun as guide, and Joseph Rey, of Courmayeur, as second man, I left Courmayeur to seek a gîte, from which I meant to try, on the following day, the passage of the Col des Grandes Jorasses. A storm coming on, we stayed the night under a stone at the top of the pastures facing the Mont de Saxe. We started at 3.30 A.M. next day, struck the glacier at 5, spent an hour in cutting steps across it, and, having followed for some distance the route up to the Grandes Jorasses, we left it to our right, reaching the foot of the rocks at 10.30 A.M. Our path now lay up a steep wedge-shaped gully. We spent $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours in ascending this, keeping the whole time to the clefts and irregularities of the rocks which bounded the gully on the east. From the top of the rocks $\frac{1}{2}$ hour was taken up in cutting steps to the col, which we reached at 4.30 P.M. The descent by the Mallet Glacier was the usual sort of work one finds on a very steep ice-fall. At 9 P.M.

we gained the confluence of the Mallet and L'Echaud Glaciers. At midnight we were at Montanvert, and at 1.15 A.M. on Sunday at Chamonix.

'The pass was taken in unfavourable weather. It is only possible from the Italian side, and even on that side must needs be very hard and somewhat risky.'

'AIGUILLE DE BLAITIERE, *August 6.*—Mr. E. R. Whitwell, with Christian Lauener, made the first ascent of the highest peak of the Blaitière. They left Chamouni at 3.15, and ascending by the Glacier des Nantillons, reached the second peak (that ascended by Mr. Kennedy) at 12.0. Finding that this was not the highest, they left it at 12.30, and gained the highest peak, after a most difficult climb, at 1.45.

'There was a good deal of ice step-cutting up to the col between the two peaks, which of course caused considerable delay in the ascent. The descent occupied $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., exclusive of halts.'

MONTE ROSA DISTRICT—THE DOM, *July 23.*—The Rev. C. Taylor, R. Pendlebury, and George S. Foster, with Hans Baumann and Gabriel Spechtenhauser as guides, having passed the night in a ruined hut built by Burgener on a ridge called 'Egg Fluh' in the Federal map, left at 4.10 A.M. for the Nadel joch, the summit of which they reached at 10.40. Leaving at 11, they at first kept to the ridge, but the ice being very hard, were gradually forced on to the north-western face, overhanging the Hohberg and Festi Glaciers, by which they reached the summit of the Dom at 1.45 P.M. They left at 2.40 by the ordinary route, and reached Randa at 7.15.

The following notes have been received from Mr. Tuckett :—

'THE RIFFEL TO SAN GIACOMO D'AYAS BY THE FELIK JOCH AND THE EASTERN ARM OF THE KLEIN VERRA GLACIER, *July 6.*—Accompanied by Christian Lauener, of Lauterbrunnen, and Ferdinand Imseng, of Macugnaga, I left the Riffel Hotel at 12.50 A.M. for the Felik Joch, and after ascending the Lyskamm by its western arête, returned to the pass, when a halt was made till 3.50 P.M.

'It is possible that our easiest and most direct course would now have been to descend upon the Felik Glacier, and skirting the eastern slopes of the snow-peak, immediately S. of Castor (which has no name, but is marked with a red mark on Mr. Reilly's map), to a point just W. of the letter F in Felik (see map), then effect a passage to the Val d'AYas by the most central of three short glaciers which descend in a SW. direction towards the lateral valley north of the Mt. Rouge. But, judging by this map, this little glacier looked as though it would give us more trouble than the eastern arm of the Klein Verra, and the distance seemed so moderate to the line of the united Schwarz Thor and Zwillinge Joch routes, that we decided in favour of the latter course. I must just explain that the massive névé-capped buttress descending in a SW. direction from Castor, and forming the right boundary of the E. arm of the Klein Verra Glacier, is not prolonged far enough downwards on Mr. Reilly's map. We soon found that we had to deal with a height of at least 5,000 feet of ice, inclined at a rather high angle, as might, indeed, have been expected from the comparatively slight horizontal distance between the Felik Joch and the lower level

of the Klein Verra Glacier. Notwithstanding the extremely bad state of the snow, we got along fairly well and fast for some time; and just as we reached a sort of brow of a steeper portion of the ice, and were expecting to encounter more serious difficulties, we were much relieved to see beneath us for some distance a broad corridor rather than couloir, offering an easy means of descent, though showing signs of being occasionally swept by avalanches both from the ice-capped cliffs of Castor and from the range of seracs piled up on either hand against the rocks in the most unusual and fantastic fashion. Take an old Bible print of the passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea, freeze the impending waves that 'on the curve hang pausing' and the watery floor between them; then tilt the whole concern at an angle of 30° to 35° , and one may have a fair idea of the peculiar scenery of this part of the route. We pushed as rapidly downward as the slope and the state of the snow admitted of, wishing long life to the friendly corridor; but it came only too soon to an end, and on reaching a second brow or step, a little below its foot we encountered quite a different state of things, and slowly threaded our way amidst a network of crevasses, which the soupy condition of the snow and the extreme rottenness of the bridges rendered exceptionally awkward. Working gradually over to the right bank beneath the cliffs of Castor, and hugging them as closely as possible, we finally reached the angle where the rocks ceased, or rather beyond which they trended upwards at a right angle and in a northerly direction, towards the Zwillinge Joch. We here found ourselves standing on the brink of a formidably steep icefall, some 500 or 600 ft. in depth, and, so far as we could see, cutting off all further progress on this side of the glacier. The sun had already sunk behind the ridges on the W. of the Val d'Ayas, and there was no time to be lost; so, after poking about for a quarter of an hour in the hope of detecting a possible outlet, we decided that we could not afford to spend an hour or two in step-cutting, which might, after all, prove useless, and probably would do so. We accordingly retraced our steps a little, and endeavoured to work diagonally down and across the obstacle in a SW. direction, in which we should, I think, have succeeded if the snow had been in even decent order. As it was, we sank deep at every step, snow-bridges gave way constantly, and Christian, who was here leading, went in suddenly as far as the rope permitted. So at last we gave it up, and again returned on our track to a less steeply inclined portion of the glacier, with a view of traversing it to the left bank and seeing whether it were possible to descend by the rocks, or, failing this, to discover a tolerable place for a bivouac on *terra firma*.

'To be brief, the descent of the rocks proved fairly easy, though caution was needed, from their rotten condition, and we got upon the gently inclined glacier stream just as it was becoming very dusk. Then followed a tedious and disagreeable stumble down endless moraines in constantly increasing darkness—failure to hit the path—two wadings of the torrent in search of it, and an arrival about 10.30 at a chalet, where we at length succeeded in rousing a couple of men and persuading them to guide us to the inn below. This was finally reached at 11.30, though not without twice missing the track, and we were nothing

loth to turn into comfortable quarters after a day's work of nearly 23 hrs., rendered of course more severe by the state of the snow.

'As the rocks on the left hand must always afford a means of passing the lower icefall, and it may also, under different circumstances, prove quite possible to traverse the latter, I think this may fairly be reckoned amongst regular practicable passes; though, if the ascent of the Lyskamm be included in the day's work, even when the snow is in good order, it must be always, I imagine, a longish one.'

'DENT BLANCHE FROM ZERMATT, *August 21.*—Mr. E. R. Whitwell and Christian Lauener with Johann Lauener as porter, made the first ascent of the Dent Blanche from the Zermatt side. After 6 hrs. easy walking from Zermatt they bivouacked on what appeared to be a very minute moraine, on the Schönbühl glacier, directly opposite the mountain. The next morning they started at 4.20, and climbed as straight as possible up the S. (or SE.?) face direct on to the summit, which was reached at 10.40. (Total halts, 55 min.) The descent of the last 2 hrs. climb occupied longer than the ascent, owing to the snow lying dangerously thin on ice. They began to descend at 11.5, and reached the tent at 4.25 (halts, 40 min.); and leaving their sleeping-place at 5, arrived at Zermatt without halting at 8.40 in the evening.

'They consider that there will always be some risk from stones and snow-avalanches on this side of the mountain.'

MONTE ROSA FROM THE LYSJOCH, *August 20.*—Mr. E. Hulton, with P. Rubi of Grindelwald and Joseph Moser of Zermatt as guides, left the Riffel at 2.30 A.M., and followed the usual route of Lysjoch, until they reached a point about three to four hundred feet below the summit of the pass, when they turned sharp to their left and ascended the glacier that lies in the bay formed by the Sattel, Hochste Spitz, and Zumstein Spitz. A good deal of step-cutting was required to reach the rocks of an arête leading in the direction of the highest peak. These rocks, however, though steep and much splintered, gave for the most part good hand and foot-hold, and the rest of the ascent was a good climb for about two hours. They gained the top at 10.50 A.M., and returned to the Riffel by the usual route.

CENTRAL ALPS.

BERGAMESQUE VALLEYS—MONTE GLENO (9,400 ft.), PASSO DI MONTE GLENO (9,150 ft., by rough barometrical measurements), *August 22.*—Messrs. Carson, Tucker and D. W. Freshfield, with François Devouassoud, left Bondione in Val Seriana, and after climbing the barrier over which the Serio falls in a fine cascade, turned to the right, and soon after reached the considerable glacier at the head of which the Monte and Passo di Gleno lie. From the pass the peak was ascended in about fifteen minutes. Care was required in the descent from the pass into Val Belviso, which opens out on the route of the Aprica Pass, about half an hour below the summit on the Sondrio side. Times, exclusive of halts; to the pass, 4¾ hours; thence to the Aprica Post-house, 4¾ hours more.

Further particulars as to the Bergamesque mountains will appear in a future number.

The following note has been received from the same party:—

ADAMELLO DISTRICT, PASSO D'AMBIES (9,550 ft., rough barometrical measurement), BATHS OF COMANO TO CAMPIGLIO, *August 26*.—Readers of the 'Journal' may possibly recollect that so long ago as 1864 a misdirected attempt to pass the Bocca di Brenta ended in the discovery of a high gap connecting the glaciers of Val Brenta and Val Agnola, by which it is possible after ascending Val Brenta to penetrate the inmost recesses of the Dolomites and return to Pinzolo by the head of Val Agnola and the Brenta del Orso. But although one of the finest and most varied excursions in this beautiful district, the 'Bocca dei Camuzzi' has been unaccountably despised and rejected by the guidebooks, and had until this year, I believe, never been revisited.

In 1864 we had reached a broad depression lying at the head of the glacier of Val Agnola, 10 min. SE. of the Bocca dei Camuzzi, and evidently overlooking the head of Val Ambies, a deeply-cut glen penetrating from the Sarca valley near the Baths of Comano to the very foot of the Brenta Alta. A snowstorm and the want of a rope then prevented us from seriously attempting a descent which appeared anything but easy. The pass, if it could be made, was a useful one, lying in a straight line from Campiglio to the Lago di Garda, and enabling a mountaineer to pass through the pinnacles of the Brenta Alta, and, by means of a carriage, reach Riva the same evening; and there was sufficient doubt about the ascent of the cliffs to make the problem interesting.

On the afternoon of August 25, therefore, of this year, having met by appointment at the Baths of Comano (where the accommodation seems excellent), we secured a peasant to carry our goods to one of the villages on the rolling uplands above the Baths, where we might hope to find quarters for the night. In $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. from the Baths we had reached Tavodo, built on a brow above the torrent of Val Ambies in a most picturesque situation, commanding, like Stenico, the beautiful basin behind us; while in front the red cliffs of the Brenta Alta, filling the space between two bold buttresses, formed a noble picture. For accommodation for the night we had to go on to San Lorenzo (about 2,400 ft. above the sea), a village on the farther side of the torrent of Val Ambies, where the inn offers clean beds.

Next morning a walk of half an hour past some sawmills took us to a cattle-path which ran steadily along the left bank of the torrent to a bend in the valley, whence we had a good view of the barrier we had to cross. The gap to be aimed at was clearly the second on the S. of the mass of the Brenta Alta. We could recognise exactly the spot where François had halted 10 years before on the brink of a vertical cliff. But 100 yds. S. of this a fan-shaped snowbed lay at the face of the apparently smooth precipice. The snow must have issued from some breach; and closer inspection showed a shadow on the face of the rocks, which confirmed our hopes of finding some hidden gully at our need. At the foot of a steep ascent the path crosses the stream; halfway up the barrier it splits, and the traveller must either choose a steep immediate ascent followed by a level walk along the slopes on the W. of the valley, or recross the stream and remain in the trough as far as its

head. By either route, and probably in about the same time, the highest pasturages will be attained without difficulty by more or less distinctly marked cattle-tracks. In the rock-wall before us there were two bays, the one on our right, with which we had nothing to do, filled by a small glacier, the other containing the snowbed seen from below. A steep ascent over broken ground led to the latter. The ascent of the fan-shaped snowslope below the cliffs exhausted our porter's power, and we relieved him of his burden and sent him back. His name is Crescinzio Bigotti, and his knowledge of where the pass is might be useful; but he would be absolutely incapable of leading anyone over it. A smart scramble (5 min.) brought us from the head of the snow to the foot of the vertical part of the cliff. Here, as we hoped, a steep snow-filled gully, entirely masked up to this moment, appeared on our right. Francois soon converted the hard snow into a staircase, which led us straight to the watershed, within 50 yds. of the spot we had reached from Pinzolo. We looked down a slope of 200 ft. on to the Val Agnola Glacier. A considerable 'bergschrund' was bridged under the left-hand rocks, and 5 min. farther walk over the level glacier brought us to the Bocca dei Camuzzi. Either side of that pass is open to the traveller. If bound for Pinzolo he will probably descend through Val Agnola and the Brenta del Orso; if for the new 'Stabilimento Alpino,' at Campiglio, by the glacier of Val Brenta. Those who take this course are recommended to try the echo half-way down the glacier; and to bear to their left on leaving the ice, in order to descend to the plain where the route of the Bocca di Brenta is joined. The views of the Dolomite walls and towers during this descent are magnificent. It would not be prudent to attempt this pass without a rope, but it is quite free from difficulty to practised mountaineers.

Times.—From the Baths of Comano to the Pass, 7 hrs. of actual walking should be allowed, without the detour to San Lorenzo. The ascent is one of nearly 8,000 ft. The descent to Campiglio should take about 3½ hrs., to Pinzolo about 4½ hrs. But few will care to hurry through such fascinating scenery.

EASTERN ALPS.

VAL FASSA DISTRICT—THE ROSENGARTEN, *August 31.*—Messrs. T. H. Carson and C. C. Tucker, with François Devouassoud, started from Vigo at 4 A.M., and having ascended the glen of Vajolet reached the base of the northern end of the Federerkogel, the highest peak of the Rosengarten range, by a broad couloir. By a somewhat difficult climb, a depression on the upper part of the mountain was gained, and from this the summit was reached in 5½ hours actual walking from Vigo. The descent to Vigo, during the first part of which much care was necessary, occupied 7 hours, exclusive of halts. In height the Federerkogel appeared to surpass the Kesselkogel, the second peak of the Rosengarten range (ascended by Messrs. Carson and Tucker in 1872), by 200 feet only.

Notices of several new expeditions have been postponed, for want of space, to the February number.
