

ERRATA.

(Owing to the miscarriage of my proofs, the following errata in 'Rocks and Rambles' have to be here corrected.)

P. 3,	line 14, 16	from bottom,	Gétroz	should be	Giétroz
" 4,	" 7	" top,	Monte	" "	Mont
" 7,	" 24	" "	Visivir	" "	Veisivi
" 10,	" 13	" "	inside, with	" "	inside with
" 11,	" 28	" "	11,641	" "	11,542
" 12,	" 16	" "	struck	" "	stuck fast
" 13,	" 3	" "	the latter	" "	the col
" 14,	" 11	" bottom,	Redessan	" "	Redessau
" 2, 3, 6, 7	(thrice), 13, 14,		Cheillon	" "	Seïlon

Engraving, p. 15.—11,641 should be 11,542. Dotted line from Summit (1) should be moved to point $\frac{1}{8}$ in. to left.

Appendix.

P. 15,	line 9	from top,	Mont de	should be	mountain as
" "	" 16	" "	Epicoum	" "	Epicoum (Oulie Cecca)
" 16,	" 6	" bottom,	high!	" "	high' (!).
" 17,	" 1	" top,	(Ritz)	" "	(S. A. C. map, and Ritz)
" "	" 13	" "	Daura	" "	Daura
" "	" 21	" "	Zas.	" "	Zas.'
" "	" 10	" bottom,	Secca	" "	cecca
" "	" 6	" "	map?	" "	map (?) and
" 18,	" 22	" "	8.6	" "	8 $\frac{1}{4}$

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1876.

WESTERN ALPS.

DAUPHINÉ ALPS.—COL DES TROIS POINTES (3,175 mètres = 10,417 feet), *June 24*.—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his second son Christian, starting from a bivouac at the head of the Vallon des Aiguilles d'Arve, mounted over moraine and snow slopes in rather more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. to a well-marked depression between the southern Aiguille d'Arve and the northern summit of the Trois Pointes des Aiguilles. After reconnoitring the former peak, which seems inaccessible from this as from every other side, the party descended to the stream flowing from the Glacier Lombard, rejoined the route of the Col de Goléon at the edge of the steep descent to Pramelier, in 2 hrs. from the pass, and reached La Grave the same morning. The immense amount of snow this season rendered this new pass, which it is proposed to call Col des Trois Pointes, in all probability much less fatiguing than it would be in an ordinary season, but it can never offer any serious difficulties.

COL DES SELLETTES (3,250 mètres = 10,663 feet), *June 28*.—The same party effected a new pass from the valley of the Vénéon to the Val Godémar. Starting from a bivouac on the lower slopes of the Aiguille d'Olan, $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. above the châteaux of La Lavey in the Combe of the same name, they reached in 1 hr. the upper plateau of the

Glacier des Sellettes. A walk over this brought them to the foot of the slope leading up to the col, which lies over the ridge between the Pic d'Olan and the Cime du Vallon, close under the latter summit. Some difficulty was experienced in forcing a passage through an upper range of séracs, which was effected at a point far to the left. A steep slope then led to the pass (which it is proposed to call Col des Sellettes), which was attained in $2\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. from the spot at which the glacier was reached. In descending, the party bore far to the left over a small glacier, in order to avoid a rocky barrier (which as seen from below can be passed at certainly one point), then to the right over snow, reaching the grass in 55 m. from the pass; a path on the right bank of the torrent brought them in 35 m. to the shepherd's hut in the Combe de Val Froide, whence the path by the Severaisse torrent in the Val Godémar was reached in less than an hour, a few minutes above the village of La Chaille (chez Gueydan).

COL D'ENTRE PIERROUX, July 1.—The same party effected a new pass between the Val Jouffrey and the valley of the Vénéon. Starting from a bivouac in the Vallon du Clot, 3 hrs. from La Chaille, they crossed the Col de Turbat (which is both longer and more difficult than the account in 'Joanne' would lead one to suppose), reaching the head of the Val Jouffrey in $3\frac{1}{4}$ hrs. Then mounting gradually along the slopes on N. side of that valley, they passed a shepherd's hut, traversed two rocky ridges at their base, and gained the Petit Vallon in 1 hr. 50 m. walking. The way then lay over slopes of débris and patches of snow till a small glacier was reached. Bearing first to the right, then far to the left, the party gained in $2\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. a well-marked though very narrow Col between the Aiguille des Arias and the Aiguille d'Entre Pierroux, which was named Col d'Entre Pierroux. Some easy rocks led to a steep snow-covered glacier which was quitted in an hour; the party then bore to the left along the slopes marked 'Travers des Chamois' in the map, crossed the torrent by means of avalanche snow, and gained the ordinary path from the châteaux of La Lavey in 55 m. walking from the glacier, reaching Saint Christophe the same evening.

AIGUILLE DU PLAT (3,602 mètres = 11,818 feet), July 3.—The same party, with the addition of Pierre Gaspard of Saint Christophe, effected the second ascent of this peak by a new route. Leaving Saint Christophe at 2.15 a.m., they followed the path to the Vallon de la Selle for 20 m., then mounted along the slopes to the right, reaching at 4.30 a.m. the southernmost of the two glaciers to the SW. of the peak marked on the map. Walking up this without any difficulty (halting 35 m. for breakfast), they mounted a steep snow couloir to the ridge dividing the two glaciers named above, which was reached at 7 a.m. Here tracks were found of M. Cordier's party which had made the first ascent from the Châlet de la Selle a few days before. Ascending partly by the face of the peak but mainly by this ridge, the party gained in 50 m. the first summit, in 10 m. more the SE. end of the highest ridge, and at 8.5 a.m. the NW. end, a snowy point, the true summit of the Aiguille. The view was most extensive and magnificent; from no other point can so complete an idea of the topography of

the district be gained. After 40 m. stay, the party returned to the NW. extremity of the ridge, which, having strengthened M. Cordier's stoneman and mastered all the details of the unclouded view, they left at 10.10, and following the same route as before, quitted the ice at 11.35. Keeping by the stream which flows from the glacier, and then to the right, they regained Saint Christophe at 12.45.

COL DE LA MARIANDE (3,025 mètres, = 9,925 feet); COL DES ARIAS (3,025 mètres, = 9,925 feet); AIGUILLE DES ARIAS (3,401 mètres, = 11,159 feet); July 4.—The same party, without Gaspard, starting from St. Christophe, crossed the Vénéon, and ascended a steep path to the châteaux of Alle du Pin in an hour. Following a tolerable path they wound round the slopes to the left, and in 55 m. gained the open basin of the Combe de la Mariande. They then, acting on the advice of a 'berger de Provence,' aimed at a conspicuous snow col at the head of the valley, which was reached in less than 2¼ hrs. walking over beds of avalanche snow, up a steep barrier of rocks and easy snowslopes. Steep rocks lead down from this pass, which may be called Col de la Mariande, to the glacier in the Grand Vallon. The party, however, desiring to ascend the Aiguille des Arias, did not effect the descent; but, retracing their steps a short distance, crossed a bergschrund and mounted a snow couloir nearer to the Aiguille des Arias, which was even steeper than the well-known one on the west side of the Col des Ecrins. The summit was reached in three-quarters of an hour from the first-named pass; from this second col, named Col des Arias, an easy descent of 15 m. brought the party to the E. extremity of the glacier in the Grand Vallon. Leaving the knapsacks on the snow, they crossed a bergschrund at the foot of the west arête of the Aiguille des Arias, and traversed the rocky face and some snow slopes to the south-west arête, following which, save at one point, where a deep cleft necessitated a difficult descent to the right, and subsequent re-ascend, they gained the summit of the hitherto virgin Aiguille in less than 2 hrs. This is the peak which is so conspicuous from Le Désert, where it is known as the Pointe du Grand Vallon: a point slightly lower and more to the north, reached from the former by a jagged ridge in 15m., is seen from St. Christophe. After building stonemen on both peaks, the party effected the return to the spot where the knapsacks had been left in 1 hr. 20 m., by the same route as before. Keeping along the glacier to the right, they passed at the base of the rocky descent from the Col de la Mariande, then descended some rocks and grass slopes to the châtelet in the Grand Vallon, which was reached in 40 m. An ill-marked path, winding round far to the right, brought them down in 35 m. to the path in the Val Jouffrey, on the right bank of the Bonne, and Le Désert was reached in 1¼ hrs. more, after a long but exceedingly interesting expedition.

The next day the party returned to the valley of the Vénéon. Mounting from Le Désert through the Combe de la Laisse, they gained in 2 hrs. the ridge between the Côte Belle and the Aiguille des Marmes (or Pic de Valsenestre), close under the latter peak, then descending to the Coin Charnier, near the village of Valsenestre, in 50 m., they remounted to the Col de la Muzelle in somewhat over 2¼ hrs., and

reached Venosc in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. more by a track on the left bank of the torrent, which was crossed just after the steep descent from the Châlets de la Muzelle; driving down to Bourg d'Oisans the same afternoon. On July 7 the same party drove from La Grave over the Lautaret to Le Lauzet (gaining some fine views of the Pointe des Ecrins between the sixteenth and seventeenth kilomètre stones), and crossed the little-known pass of the Col de la Ponsoinière to Valloire, above St. Michel en Arc.

AIGUILLE DU PLAT DE LA SELLE (3,602 mètres), *June 28.*—Mons. Henri Cordier, with Jakob Anderegg and Andrew Maurer, made the first ascent of this, the highest peak near St. Christophe. 'Starting at 2.15 a.m. from the Châlets de la Selle we reached at 5 the glacier which descends to the W. of the Aiguille du Plat. In half an hour more we reached the foot of the arête on the right of the glacier, an hour's climb up somewhat difficult rocks brought us to the crest. Following this for some distance, and then turning sharply to the left, we attained ($1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.) the upper arête of the mountain, and in a quarter of an hour more ($5\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. walking from the châlets), the maiden peak. Leaving the top at 10 we spent nearly 3 hrs., on account of a violent tempest, in regaining the glacier, and after halting on it 15 m., returned to the châlets at 3.15 p.m.'

COL DE ROCHE D'ALVAN (3,010 mètres), *July 2.*—The same party crossed a new pass from La Grave to La Bérarde. It is between the Roche Faurio and the Roche d'Alvan, and connects the Glacier de la Plate des Agneaux and the Glacier de la Bonne Pierre. 'Starting at 2.45 a.m. from the Châlets de l'Alp we reached at 7.30 (after 45 m. halt) the foot of the col. In half an hour we conquered a difficult "bergschrand" and a short icewall. Thence by rocks offering only occasional difficulties we gained the col at 9.45. Leaving it at 11 we descended (1 hr.) a very formidable rock-wall on to the Glacier de la Bonne Pierre. La Bérarde was reached at 2 p.m.'

LE RÂTEAU (3,771 mètres), descent to La Grave, *July 3.*—The same party left La Bérarde at midnight. At 3 a.m. we reached the Glacier des Étancons. After waiting $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., in consequence of the doubtful weather, we started at 5.30 towards the SE. arête, which we reached at 9.30, having been much hindered by the state of the snow. At 10.15 we began to climb the arête, and in 1 hr. reached the point where it joins the E. arête, known also as the Arête de la Brèche. At 11.45, by a difficult snow cornice, we attained the summit. Starting at mid-day we began, half an hour later, the descent of the E. arête, which we followed for 3 hrs., exposed to a violent storm, and encountering very serious difficulties. At 3.30 p.m. we quitted the ridge to descend on to the Glacier de la Brèche, and reached La Grave at 6.30.'

TARENTEISE DISTRICT.—COL DU FOND (3,300 mètres) AND **POINTE DE LA SASSIÈRE** (3,653 mètres), *July 22.*—Mons. H. Cordier, with J. Anderegg and G. Maurer, left Val Grisanche at 2.30 a.m., and at 7 a.m. the Châlets of Vaudet. 'By 11, over broken and fatiguing schist rocks, we gained a depression in the ridge N. of the Sassièrre, which we propose to call "Col du Fond," because it leads to the glacier to

which the Carte de l'Etat Major gives this name. Turning to the left from the col, keeping below the ridge, and leaving several summits to our left, we attained, at 12.30 P.M., a point but a short distance from La Grande Sassièrè, doubtless that assigned 3,653 mètres on the Government map. Leaving the top at 1 P.M. we were on the col in half an hour, and at the foot of the glacier in 1 hr. more. Thence we descended in 2½ hrs. to the village of Tignes.'

COL DE LA GRANDE MOTTE (3,200 mètres), *July 23*.—'The same party made this expedition. Leaving Tignes at 3.30 A.M. we reached at 6 the foot of the Glacier de la Grande Motte. Starting at 7 we ascended the glacier and then crossed fields of névé to a slight depression in the ridge which runs E. from La Grande Motte. The col was reached at 10, and left at 10.45. We descended towards the Vallon de la Leisse by a glacier imperfectly shown on the Government map. In 1 hr. we were at the foot of the ice. Keeping to a certain height on the flanks of the Grande Motte and the Grande Casse, we reached at 2.30 P.M. the Col de la Vanoise, whence we descended in 2 hrs. to Pralognan.'

GRANDE CASSE AND COL DE LA GRANDE CASSE (3,200 mètres), *July 26-27*.—The same party slept in the Châlets of la Glière, near the Col de la Vanoise, with the intention of ascending the highest peak of the Grand Casse, which Mr. Mathews did not quite attain in 1860.

'We left the châlets at 1.15 A.M., and the Col de la Vanoise at 3. In 1 hr. we reached the junction of the Glacier de la Grande Casse, which extends to the left of the peak, and the glacier—nameless on the map—which flows from between its two summits. After half an hour's halt we ascended the latter glacier for some time, and then turned to the left to gain the great rib of rocks which dominates it. For the first half-hour the rocks were extremely difficult. At 9 we came to the snow arête which leads to the highest point. It is very narrow and formidable, and took us more than an hour to ascend. The chief difficulty is in reaching a snow cornice which looks like the top. It is, no doubt, the spot where Mr. Mathews stopped. The true top lies some distance further back, where the snow arête meets another rock-ridge. The top was gained at 10 A.M. We only halted long enough to put our names in a box and to confirm the fact that the Grande Casse is by much the highest point of the Tarentaise group. Abandoning the arête and our morning's route at 10.30, we descended by the glacier, which, despite its appearance, proved easy, and at 12.30 had returned to the junction of the glaciers. Without halting we ascended the Glacier de la Grande Casse, and in 1½ hrs. easy going reached the deep gap on the left of the Grande Casse. One hour sufficed for the descent by the Glacier de Lepénu to the bottom of the Vallée de Champagny. Four hours' walking down the valley brought us to a little village at its mouth, where we slept.'

GRAIAN ALPS, GRIVOLA, *July 17*.—W. M. and R. Pendlebury, with the guides Gabriel and Josef Spechtenhauser, ascended the Grivola by the snow arête on the north, and after passing over the summit of the mountain, descended on the south side to Cogne. They spent the previous night in one of a group of huts (uninhabited at the time) near

the foot of the glacier on the north of the peak. The ascent of this glacier was a little difficult; considerably more than 1,000 steps were cut on it and on the long ice-ridge.

TOUR DU GRAND ST. PIERRE, July 19.—The same party starting from the Alp de Monei, ascended the glacier towards the Col de Monei. When a short distance from the col, they turned to the left and climbed straight upwards to the summit of the Tour du Grand St. Pierre, the latter part of the way over decidedly difficult rocks. Avoiding the ridge by which the first ascent was made, they descended by the face of the peak looking towards the Val Piantonetto, and afterwards bending to the left, they reached the glacier by a couloir opening on to the névé, some little distance below the Col de Teleccio. This expedition deserves to be recommended, as it combines the fine scenery of both the Cols de Monei and Teleccio.

COL DE MONTANDAÏNÉ, July 22.—The same party made a col, which is probably new, from Val Savaranche to Cogne, crossing the ridge to the south of the Grande Serre, and descending on to the N. part of the Plan de la Tribulation. After leaving the glacier the route of the Col de l'Herbetet was joined near the top of one of the royal hunting paths. The scenery on the Cogne side is very fine. By the Grande Serre is meant the peak so-called by the natives of the district, that, namely, to the south of the Col de l'Herbetet. On Baretta's map, however, the name Grande Serre is given to the peak north of the Col de l'Herbetet, and the southern summit is called L'Herbetet. The new col is marked on Baretta's map by a dotted red line as a 'possible but as yet untried passage.' It is proposed to call it Col de Montandainé.

THE GRIVOLA FROM VAL SAVARANCHE.—On Tuesday, July 18, the Rev. F. T. Wethered, with Laurent Proment, of Courmayeur, and a *garde chasse* of Val Savaranche, by name Jean Joseph Blanc, made the ascent of the Grivola from Dégieux (or Val Savaranche). They mounted by the king's hunting path to the foot of the glacier at the W. base of the mountain, and striking across to the SW. ridge gained the arête, traversed La Blanche, took to the W. face at a point some distance above the Col de la Grivola, and reached the summit in rather over 12 hrs. 30 min. from Dégieux. They descended to Cogne, reaching the 'Hôtel de la Grivola' at about 10 p.m.

THE GRAND PARADIS, FROM COGNE.—On Thursday, July 20, the Rev. F. T. Wethered, with Laurent Proment, of Courmayeur, and E. Jeantet, of Cogne, traversed the Grand Paradis from Cogne to the Val Savaranche. Leaving the 'Hôtel de la Grivola' at 2 a.m., they followed Messrs. Barlow and Still's route until the base of the peak was reached; when, finding it impossible to gain the ridge leading to the summit by the couloir ascended in 1872, on account of the quantity of snow in it, they turned northwards, and, walking along the glacier in this direction for about 450 yards, mounted by a steep snow slope and rocks, striking the ridge considerably north of Mr. Barlow's point. They experienced some difficulty in passing some interposing rocks between this and the summit, which they did not reach until 1.30 p.m.

POINTE DE CHARBONEL OR MONT CHARDONNET (3,760 mètres =

12,336 feet), July 10.—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his second son Christian, effected the ascent of this neglected peak by a new and direct route. Starting from the village of La Goulaz, at the entrance of the Vallée d'Avérole at 2.45 A.M., they crossed the stream and followed a rough track on its left bank, which brought them to the foot of steep grass slopes. Mounting by these and traversing two torrents, a short scramble led at 5.40 A.M. to the débris on the edge of a lower shelf of glacier, clearly seen from the valley below. After half-an-hour's halt for breakfast, they ascended easy slopes of snow, and gained the upper glacier by passing a rocky barrier at a point far to the left near a threatening range of séracs. The way, then, lay along snow slopes of moderate steepness, and the cairn erected by the French engineers was reached by the N. arête at 8.5 A.M. without encountering the slightest obstacle. The view was cloudless, and most interesting as being very extensive and including a district as yet unknown to any member of the party. From a notice in the eighteenth number of the *Bullettino* of the 'Italian Alpine Club' (p. 539), it would appear that this peak has been ascended by the French engineers, by a party of peasants, and on July 7, 1870, by the guides of a traveller, who was left some way below the summit. The sole previous ascent by a traveller seems to have been that effected on July 10, 1874, by Signor Leopoldo Barale (whose name was the only one in the cairn), with the brothers Castagneri of La Balme, and Giorgio Vincendet of Avérole. All these ascents were made from the S., from the Col d'Ouille Mouta of the French map, which may be reached from the Vallée d'Avérole, or the Vallon de Ribon. M. Culet, of Bonneval, recommended the ascent from the châteaux of Pierre Grosse in the Vallon de Ribon, to the NW. arête, and so to the summit; but the route actually followed (which may be perfectly traced from the little chapel on the path between Bessans and Bonneval) is much more direct and probably less laborious than either of the others.

A piercing wind materially interfered with the enjoyment of the perfect view, so, leaving at 8.50 A.M., the party followed the NW. arête to the base of the second of three rocky teeth seen from below, then by a series of glissades rejoined their former track, and regained the breakfast place at 9.25. Following the same route as before for some distance, they kept on the right bank of the torrent and descended straight down to the floor of the Vallon d'Avérole. Crossing the main torrent nearly opposite Vincendières, they reached the path in the valley at 10.30 A.M., and La Goulaz at 10.55 A.M., having halted 15 m. since leaving the summit.

There is no inn at La Goulaz, but the party were most hospitably received and entertained, as well as the somewhat scanty means would allow, by Jean Dominique Vincendet and his wife. However, as the expedition is one of very moderate length, future travellers are advised to start from the comparatively comfortable quarters at Bonneval chez Culet. The Charbonel has been hitherto strangely overlooked by the explorers of the district, as, with the exception of the Grand Paradis, the Grivola, the Grande Casse, the Mont Pourri, and one or two other

points near Cogne, it is the highest point in the Tarentaise and Graian Alps, that is between the Dauphiné and Pennine ranges.

POINTE DE SENGIES, 11,250 feet (?); COL DE SENGIES (?) 11,000, *Sept. 4.*—Dr. Minnigerode, Messrs. C. C. Tucker and D. W. Freshfield, with François Devouassoud and Pierre Léon Guichardaz, of Cogne, left the road up the Combe de Valleiglia, about 1 hr. 40 m. from Cogne, near a hut lately erected by the roadside. A steep path climbs at this point among the cliffs on the east of the glen to some slopes on which wild hay is annually cut for the use of the royal stables. After making the circuit of the hollow through which the drainage of a small glacier, the first on the left, falls into the valley, and of the spur beyond it, they reached (4 hrs. from Cogne), by a steep ascent, the moraine of the Glacier de la Combe de la Grande Arolla. The ice was broken by unusually large crevasses, but no serious difficulty was met with before the bergschrund, which prevented a direct ascent of the face of the Pointe de Sengies. The summit was ultimately reached in 7½ hrs. from Cogne by a steep snow-wall and the northern ridge, the rocks of which are fairly easy. The Pointe de Sengies appears to be the highest summit in the Grand Paradis group beyond the Ondezana. Two or three hundred feet below and to the south of the peak is a gap in the ridge, from which two gullies lead down, one to the basin of the Telleccio Glacier, the other towards Val di Forzo. Dr. Minnigerode and Guichardaz returned to Cogne by the one couloir, while the rest of the party descended into Val di Forzo. It would seem natural to call the new pass thus completed the Col de Sengies. The name has unluckily been already applied by Dr. Baretto (who does not indicate the pass made either as known or 'untried') to a pass close to the Ondezana. That pass might, however, appropriately be called the Col de l'Ondezana, and the name Col de Sengies given to the new pass. A thick fog prevented the lie of the ground on the Val di Forzo side being accurately ascertained, but enough was seen to show that in the descent the main Glacier de Ciardonnei was not touched. The spur limiting it springs from the summit south of the Pointe de Sengies, and not from that peak as shown in Baretto's map.

N.B.—The Italian Alpine Club should lose no time in supplying the inn at Cogne with some proper rope. At present the guides use the slender cords which generally serve to fasten hay-bundles, and are absolutely worthless for mountaineering purposes.

VARIATION OF THE COL DI CARRO and BRÈCHE DES CHAMOIS, *August 12.*—Mons. L. Dècle, starting from Bonneval with Henri Devouassoud and Ed. Cupelin at 5¼ A.M., ascended the valley to the north. 'Mounting grassy slopes and rocks we crossed snow. Instead of taking to the left, we bore to the right, by a little glacier, and some easy rocks. Our descent on the Glacier di Carro was made by rocks. We crossed the glacier to the left, then passing over a moraine found chamois traces through some névé. Following them we arrived at a break in the rocks which overlooks a little glacier (this col resembles much the Fenêtre de Salena on the Glacier de Salena side). We gave our col the name Brèche des Chamois. Our descent was made by loose stones, and then by a little couloir; we descended the glacier and came to a little lake,

and slept at the Châlets de Ponte in Val Savaranche, having crossed the Col de la Croix de Nivolet.

'We reached Ponte 14 hrs. after starting from Bonneval.'

MONT BLANC DISTRICT.—MONT GRUETTA (3,700 mètres), first ascent, August 15.—M. L. Dècle, with H. Devouassoud and Ed. Cupelin, left the Châlets de la Vachez in Val Ferret at 3 A.M., and followed for some time the track of the Col Ferret. 'We crossed the stream and ascended the moraine to the right of the Glacier de Freboutzie. Climbing some rocks which require care, we found ourselves on the N. part of the glacier, which is there steep, and cut up by many large crevasses. It required good step-cutting (300 steps) over ice avalanches, which are *very frequent*, in the middle of the day, and cover the whole of the glacier. At 9 A.M. we took to the arête which separates the Glacier de Freboutzie in two parts. Snow and hail began to fall, and we could see nothing before us. We stopped for some time, and then ascended again. At 11 A.M. we believed we had reached the summit, and built a cairn.

'We were descending when the clouds opened and the true summit appeared. We ran towards it, by a snow arête (which formed a corniche over the Glacier de Triolet), and then by some rocks, and at 12 A.M. we were standing on the true top, where we built another cairn. We were higher than the Little Jorasses, which we could only see through clouds.

'Four hours sufficed us to descend to the châteaux by the same route, and 1½ hrs. after we reached Courmayeur. It is a very easy ascent on the whole; the glacier alone offers slight difficulties.'

AIGUILLES MARBRÉES (3,514 mètres), first ascent, August 17.—I made this ascent from the Col du Géant in order to have a view on the Aiguille du Géant; 1½ hrs. sufficed us to make the ascent from the col (in seeking crystals which are there in great quantity), and three-quarters of an hour to descend. The rocks are most easy, and I should much recommend the ascent for the magnificent view which one enjoys from the top of Mont Blanc, Mont Blanc du Tacul, Tour Ronde, Flambeaux, Aiguille du Midi, Aiguille du Géant, Blaitière, Charmoz, the Chamonix valley, Dru, Aiguille Verte, Les Droites, and the whole Glacier du Géant. This excursion can be easily made in a single day from Courmayeur.—L. DÈCLE.

Guides, Henri Devouassoud and Ed. Cupelin.

AIGUILLE VERTE FROM ARGENTIÈRE GLACIER, July 31.—Messrs. T. Middlemore, J. O. Maund, and H. Cordier left the Châlets de Lognon 1.15 A.M., reached foot of couloir 5, arête 11.20, summit 3 P.M. They descended to the Pierre à Béranger, which they reached at 11 P.M. Guides, Johann Jaun, Jakob Anderegg, and A. Maurer.

LES COURTES (3,833 mètres) FROM ARGENTIÈRE TO TALÈFRE GLACIER, August 4.—The same party left Châlets de Lognon at 1.45 A.M.; summit 12.30 P.M., Jardin 6, Chamonix 10.30.

LES DROITES FROM TALÈFRE GLACIER, RETURNING THE SAME WAY, August 7.—The same party, without J. Anderegg, left Pierre à Béranger 2 A.M., foot of rocks 5.45, summit 11.45 A.M., Jardin 6, Chamonix 8.45 P.M.

LES DROITES (4,030 mètres, = 13,222 feet), *July 16.*—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his second son Christian, effected the first ascent of the second point of this mountain. Leaving the hut at Pierre à Béranger at 5 A.M., they passed to the NE. of the Jardin, and aimed at the easternmost of two spurs of rock shown in the French map. The snowy crest of this was gained at 8.35, after passing several wide crevasses and ascending a steep gully. Climbing along this, and occasionally by the face of the peak to the left, the party reached, at 11.40 (having halted 1 hr. 10 m. on the way up), a splintered summit slightly to the north-west of the highest pinnacle of the mountain. This latter, an aiguille of bare rock, rising about 30 feet above the point on which the party was standing, seemed quite impracticable from this side. After heaping a few stones together the party left at 12.10, descended mainly by the face of the peak and the westernmost of the two spurs mentioned above, then crossed to the crest of the other, and, having halted half an hour on the way, reached a patch of moraine to E. of the Jardin at 3.50, where they bivouacked, crossing next day to Martigny by the Col de Triolet (rendered much easier than usual by the great quantity of snow) and the Petit Ferrex.

AIGUILLE DE BLAITIÈRE, *July 29.*—R. Pendlebury, with the guides Gabriel and Josef Spechtenhauser, ascended this peak from Chamonix. Ignorant of the exact position of the highest point, they passed round the side of the peak which carries Mr. Whitwell's cairn, and climbed a point still more remote from Chamonix. This appears to form a third summit of the mountain, and is perhaps a foot or two lower than the central or highest peak, but considerably above the outer peak seen from Chamonix. A small cairn was built on the top, as it appears never to have been visited before. The climb was of some difficulty.

LA TOUR NOIRE (3,843 mètres).—Messrs. Gavell and Turner slept on the grass slopes above the moraine of the La Neuvaz Glacier, and took the Tour Noire on their way to Chamonix.

On August 18 Messrs. Barlow and Still climbed the peak in crossing the pass in the opposite direction. The ascent occupied 1½ hrs. easy going from the col.

LA GRANDE FOURCHE (3,620 mètres).—The following is extracted from 'Le Touriste.' Mr. H. Whitehouse, after spending four days in a tent on the Glacier d'Orny, ascended this summit with a porter from Orsières. In one place he had a stiff scramble. Mr. Whitehouse also passed a new col from the Glacier d'Orny to the Val d'Arpette; he found the descent difficult.

ZERMATT DISTRICT.—ROSSBODENHORN (FLETSCHHORN), FROM SIMPLON. Messrs. Thomas Cox and Frederick Gardiner, accompanied by the guides Peter Knubel of St. Nicolas and Joseph Dorsaz of Simplon, made the ascent of this mountain by the SE. arête on July 5. Leaving the village of Simplon at midnight, the summit was reached at 12.25, and the village of Saas at 4 P.M. The enormous quantities of snow rendered the passage of the Fletschjoch (by which route they had intended to ascend the mountain) extremely dangerous, and when the Laquin Glacier was reached, it was determined to attempt the ascent

by the rocks of the SE. arête. These were found much more difficult than was anticipated, being loose and in many places coated with a thin layer of ice, and a return seemed frequently inevitable. The descent to Saas presented no difficulties beyond those usually met with from crossing snow late in the day, but some danger was incurred from avalanches. The guide Joseph Dorsaz, although his local knowledge is useful, is scarcely to be relied upon for expeditions of great difficulty, the entire work having been thrown upon Peter Knubel throughout the day. The two guides, Zum Kreml and Jordan, mentioned in Mr. Ball's 'Pennine Alps' (page 371), are no longer available. There is considerable confusion as to the name of this mountain; at Simplon it is called Fletschhorn, while at Saas it is known as Rossbodenhorn, and the former name given to its more lofty neighbour, which at Simplon is named Laquinhorn. In the Swiss Alpine Club map the name Fletschhorn (Rossbodenhorn) is given to the lower peak, and that of Laquinhorn to the higher, while in the Alpine Club map and Swiss Federal map, no name is given to the former mountain, while the latter is respectively named Fletschhorn (Laquinhorn) and Fletschhorn.

LANGENFLUHJOCH, August 12.—Messrs. E. and W. Guage, M. Courtenay, and F. Gardiner, unaccompanied by guides, left the Riffelhaus at 2 A.M., descended towards the Grunnen See in the Findelthal, and at 7 A.M. reached a pass at the base of the Rympfischhorn between the points marked 3,258 and 3,314 in the Federal map, and after cutting steps in hard ice for 3¼ hrs. across the Langenfluh Glacier, reached the moraine between it and the Hubel glacier at 10.45, and descended to Zermatt by the Mellichen Thal. They propose the name of Langenfluh Joch for this pass.

THE RYMPFISCHHORN AND ADLER PASS.—The Rev. F. T. Wethered, accompanied only by his guide Laurent Proment of Courmayeur, left Zermatt at 2.20 A.M. on August 5, and having proceeded up the Findelen and Adler Glaciers to a point not far from the foot of the Adler pass, struck the S. slopes of the Rympfischhorn. 'After a short scramble up the rocks, we came upon snow, which was connected with a large plateau of névé by a low snow wall, topped by a cornice running pretty nearly E. and W. Crossing the plateau in a NE. direction we mounted some steepish rocks which took us on to another snowfield; thence, bearing more due E., we made for a gap in the summit ridge by way of a broad and steep couloir of snow. The highest point of the mountain was well to the N. when we reached the gap, and inaccessible from the point we had gained. It was, therefore, necessary slightly to retrace our steps and to traverse the W. face for some short distance towards the N. Ere long we came to marks on the rocks which left no doubt that we had struck the usual route, and in due course arrived on the top. After a short halt, we descended to the base of the rocks upon which we had left our *impedimenta* on quitting the Adler glacier. From thence, in about an hour, we were upon the col of the Adler, which—by the way—it would no doubt be impossible to reach from the summit ridge of the Rympfischhorn. We reached the 'Monte Moro' Hotel at Saas, *vid* the Mattmark See, the same even-

ing. The whole expedition took us 19 hrs. Neither Proment nor I had been on the Rympfischhorn or Adler previously.'—F. T. W.

BIES JOCH, BRUNEGGHORN, BRUNEGG JOCH.—Messrs. F. Gardiner, A. Cust, and F. T. Wethered, with three guides, left Randa at 2.20 A.M. on July 29th, for the Bies Joch, which was reached at 9.10 A.M. Two of them ascended the Brunegghorn, in 45 m. from the Joch, descending to the Brunegg Joch, and thus returned to the Zermatt valley, *via* the Abberg Glacier, shortly before 3 P.M.

'The expedition was an interesting one, well repaying us with the beauty of its views. The Weisshorn, immediately under which we mounted to the Bies Joch, was extremely fine; the Mischabel and Monte Rosa groups came out splendidly. The huge séracs on the Bies Joch, through which we threaded our way, were grandly wild. The Brunegghorn was a mere "walk up," and the descent by the Brunegg Joch perfectly easy. I am anxious to testify to the extreme cleanliness, civility, good food, and general comfort which I found at the little inn at Randa, reopened in 1875. It thoroughly deserves encouragement. I stayed there on two separate occasions this last season.'—F. T. W.

THE TÄSCHHORN—(FIRST ASCENT FROM SAAS).—Mr. P. Watson and the Rev. F. T. Wethered, with Alexander Burgener of Saas, Benedict Venez of Stalden, and Laurent Proment of Courmayeur, as guides, left a milk châlet on the Gletscher Alp, above Fee (two hours from the Monte Moro Hotel, Saas), at 2 A.M. on Monday, August 7. 'Having followed the route to the Mischabeljoch for some way up the Fee Glacier, we bore to the right on nearing the ridge of rocks which will be remembered well by those who have crossed that pass; and, proceeding NW. amongst the séracs, reached the E. foot of the Täschhorn—striking the rocks at their base immediately under the summit-ridge—at 7.45 A.M. After halting for a short meal, we thence ascended by a rocky arête straight up the face of the mountain, with a snow couloir on the right of us. On reaching some snow about two-thirds of the way up the peak, we diverged slightly to the right, and thence, following another arête, covered with snow at the time, arrived on the summit-ridge, about 90 feet N. of the highest point, which we reached at 10.45 A.M. The rocks, which during the first half of the ascent from the base of the peak had been good, although shaly, were much broken, and consequently dangerous, as we approached the summit (it was on this account that we bore to the right, as mentioned above). The weather was gloriously fine, and the view from the top magnificent. We consider that the ascent from Saas—right up the face, as we made it—is a climb which will well repay any who may attempt it, but, with fresh snow on the rocks, it would, most likely, be impossible to ascend them, on account of the danger which would arise from falling stones, as well as by reason of the difficulty of proceeding on the rocks thus covered. The descent to Randa gave us some trouble on account of the crevassed state of the lower portion of the Kien glacier, and the softness of the snow at the time of day we were on it. Alexander Burgener led splendidly to the summit.'—F. T. W.

CENTRAL ALPS.

BERNESE OBERLAND.—THE EIGER FROM THE EIGER JOCH.—On July 31, George E. Foster, accompanied by Hans Baumann and Ulrich Riebl, both of Grindelwald, left the hotel on the Wengern Alp at 2.15 A.M., and ascending by the Eiger Glacier, reached the Eiger Joch at 6.55; then striking up the long arête which leads from the Joch to the summit, ascended partly by easy rocks but chiefly by hard snow and ice, till they reached the top at 8.50. They descended by the usual arête, after nearly an hour's rest, arriving at the hotel about 1.40 P.M.

FINSTERAARHORN BY THE ROTHORN SATTEL, July 15.—Mons. H. Cordier, with Jakob Anderegg and Gaspar Maurer, left the Rothloch at 2.15 A.M. At 4 they reached the foot of the SE. arête of the Finsteraarhorn—the Rothhorn Sattel. Starting again at 4.30 they gained the arête at 7.30, after an ascent over difficult rocks and long and steep snow slopes. 'For the first half-hour the ridge was easy; later the difficulties kept increasing. After a second halt (9.45 to 10.15) we had to climb for half an hour with great difficulty a series of obelisks strangely arranged and very unstable. At 10.45 we found ourselves face to face with a wall like that of the Meije on the side of Les Étançons. Descending a kind of couloir which overhung the Glacier de Viesch, we discovered a narrow chimney by which we climbed to the top, reached at 12.15 P.M.

'The last part of this ascent far exceeded in difficulty anything that I have ever done in the Alps. We descended by the ordinary route to the Ägischhorn, which we reached at 11.30 P.M. The summit of the Finsteraarhorn was attained (see 'Central Alps,' p. 89) in 1842, but by what route is not clear.'

FIRST ASCENT OF SNOWPEAK IN BERNINA ARÊTE (about 160 feet lower than the Piz Bernina).—Messrs. T. Middlemore and H. Cordier, with Jaun and Gaspar Maurer, left Misauna Châlet 1.30 A.M., reached arête by the Tschierva Glacier at 7.45, summit of snow-peak 1 P.M., return to Pontresina 10 P.M. They propose to call this peak the 'Monte Rosso di Tschierva.'

FIRST ASCENT OF PIZ ROSEGG FROM THE TSCHIERVA GLACIER, August 18.—The same party left Misauna Châlet at 1 A.M., reached top of moraine on Tschierva Glacier, 5; foot of rocks of arête leading to snow-peak, 10 A.M.; summit, 11.30; Misauna Châlet, 5 P.M.; Pontresina, 6.30 P.M.

EASTERN ALPS.

ADANELLO GROUP.—Mr. Coolidge descending from the Adamello to Val di Genova, avoided the long circuit by the Mandron hut by finding a way down the steep rocks on the left bank of the Mandron Glacier. These are not so difficult as they appear from below.

PRIMIERO GROUP. VARIATION OF THE PASSO DELLE CORNELLE.—On August 29, Mr. T. H. Marshall and Captain E. Clayton, with Alessandro Lacedelli of Cortina, reached the Primiero plateau from Cen-

cenighe by the usual route through the Val di Gares and Val delle Cornelle. Wishing to reach Primiero rather than San Martino, they determined to try and effect a descent through the gorge between the Cima della Rosetta and the Palle di San Martino. They kept to the left side of the gorge till they reached a shelf of grass cut off from other grass slopes below by a wall of very steep rocks, sixty or seventy feet high. A point was found where these rocks could be descended without great difficulty, and the correct course is then to the right, down a gully, to the dry bed of the torrent. (The party having no local knowledge, tried to descend by the grass slopes, inclining to the left, but found themselves stopped by impracticable precipices, and were forced to return after losing much time.) A track is then found which crosses débris slopes on the right bank of the gorge, and, passing above a projecting mass of rock, leads down more débris slopes to the woods and pastures below. A path, badly marked at first, then leads through woods and over pastures by the left bank of the Cismona to Siror and Primiero. There seems to be but one practicable way down the gorge, but if this were known, 3½ hours, or less, should suffice from the top of the pass to Primiero, and the route appears to be a short and interesting way from Cencenighe to Primiero. *Passo della Rosetta* would seem to be an appropriate name for the pass if it does not already possess one.

ALPINE NOTES.

MOUNT ARARAT.—Mr. James Bryce, D.C.L., has this autumn ascended Ararat. His success has drawn attention to two earlier English ascents, made in 1845 by Mr. H. Danby Seymour, and in 1856 by Majors Robert Stuart and Alick Fraser, the Rev. Walter Thursby, Mr. James Theobald, of Winchester, and Mr. John Evans, of Darley Abbey, Derbyshire, which had, through the reticence of the climbers, fallen into oblivion. We hope to publish further details of Mr. Bryce's ascent, the first made since mountain climbing has become popular by a practised mountaineer. At the same time we shall endeavour, with the assistance of Captain Telfer's Russian knowledge, to make a complete list of the ascents of the mountain. Any information on the subject would be very welcome.

THE MATTERHORN WITHOUT GUIDES.—The following letter is reprinted from the 'Times' of August 5:—

'Sir,—The feat of ascending the Matterhorn without guides has for the first time been performed by three Englishmen, Messrs. A. Cust, Colgrove, and Cawood, all members of the Alpine Club and experienced mountaineers, but none of whom had ascended the Matterhorn before. The guides were naturally jealous of the attempt, and the party had difficulty in finding porters to carry provisions, but at last procured two through the help of Mr. Seiler, the landlord. They left the hotel at Zermatt on Friday, July 21, at 11 a.m., intending to pass the night at the hut, the position of which two of the party had ex-