

our companions we do not find cold at great heights so trying as equal cold in the plain. Mountain sickness or headache is not produced by cold, but by exposure to the sun's rays reverberated from snow and ice. And we must confess with shame that though at great heights we can go longer without food, or with little food, than in the plain, it is rather the *quality* of the provisions—when we have any—than the *quality* of the air which regulates our appetite. What is wanted before this problem can be settled is a series of experiments on a large number of subjects.

D. W. F.

La Chaîne des Alpes vue de l'Aiguille du Dôme de Milan: Panorama d'Orientalion dessinés d'après Nature, avec un Texte explicatif. E. F. Bossoli. (Pirola. Milan: 1878.)

Signor Bossoli's Panorama is far superior to the ordinary ill-executed works often put forth under that name. His personal acquaintance with the mountains has led him to take special pains to preserve their characteristic outlines; and the identification of the numerous peaks seems, as far as we can judge, accurate and well done.

Guida Geologico-Alpina di Bassano e dintorni, con uno Schizzo di Carta geologica ed uno spaccato. Da A. Secco. (Roberti. Bassano: 1880.)

Signor Secco has written a compact little guide to Bassano and its neighbourhood, which, without aiming at anything very great, amply succeeds in its object of giving notices of the various excursions to be made in that neighbourhood. The geological and botanical details which are scattered throughout its pages will be found useful by travellers with scientific tastes.

Sui Popoli Antichi e Moderni dei Setti Comuni del Vicentino. Da F. Molon, 2da edizione, riveduta ed ampliata. (Burato. Vicenza: 1881.)

Signor Molon sets himself to prove two statements, 1—that the aboriginal inhabitants of this part of the Alpine chain belonged to the Italic race; and 2, that the actual inhabitants of the Tredici Comuni, near Verona, and of the Setti Comuni, near Vicenza, are descended from a colony of West Goths, part of the army of Alaric. Both propositions involve thorny and difficult historical and philological considerations, and the method adopted by our author is not in all points successful, though his conclusions are probably true. He is a devoted opponent of the theory which would make them Cimbri, and loses his balance of mind in the presence of 'Celtomania.'

ALPINE NOTES.

THE ALPS OF NEW ZEALAND (cf. vol. x. 237).—We learn that the Rev. W. S. Green (Carrigaline Rectory, Cork), a member of the Club, left England in November for the purpose of exploring the little known snowy regions of New Zealand. He was accompanied by Ulrich Kaufmann and Emil Boss of Grindelwald. Everyone interested in the opening up of new districts to mountaineers will wish Mr. Green and

his companions all success in their adventurous journey. Mr. Green has kindly promised to let the readers of the 'Journal' have the earliest news of any ascents he may be fortunate enough to accomplish. In this connection it may be interesting to note that, according to the recent Government map of New Zealand, the height of Mount Cook has been determined (by 24 trigonometrical observations made at stations from 20 to 70 miles distant) to be only 12,349 feet, whereas the old Admiralty Survey gives it a height of 13,200 feet. We trust that Mr. Green's party will be able to settle this interesting question by observations made on the culminating point.

WINTER EXPEDITIONS IN THE ALPS.—This winter seems destined to be remarkable for the number of expeditions made at unusual periods. Hardly had the autumn tourists departed when a fresh band attacked the fortresses of nature, and with great success, as will be seen from the following details. The chief expedition as yet reported is the ascent of the Wetterhorn by way of the Urbachthal, achieved on December 7 last by Mr. James Eccles, with Melchior Anderegg, Johann von Bergen, and Johann Jaun as guides. They spent the day of December 6 in reaching the Dossenhütte from Meiringen, snow falling a great part of the time. Next morning, starting at 7 A.M., they reached the summit of the peak at 11.40 A.M. They halted there 15 minutes, and were back at the hut by 3 P.M. The snow was in very bad order up to the hut, but in good condition from that point to the summit. Herr Simon, one of the Federal Engineers, and Herr Ch. Montandon, starting from the Spittelmatt Alp on the Gemmi, went up the Altels on November 7 and found it so pleasant and warm on the summit that they remained there for three hours. Leaving at 1 P.M. they reached Thun *on foot* at 6.30 in time for the last train for Bern. No guides were taken on this expedition. The state of the snow and the weather were all that could be desired. The same party, with the addition of Herr A. Rubi, again without guides, made on November 14 an attempt on the Weisse Frau, starting from the Blümlis Alp Club hut, but encountering much ice were forced to retreat about 100 feet below the summit, as the advanced hour of the day did not allow them time to cut the sixty steps (taking each two minutes) required to attain the desired peak. The Piz d'Aela was ascended on November 12 by Pfarrer Gregori of Bergün, with local guides, who also on November 25 led a Swiss and an Austrian climber up the same peak. In both cases 10 hrs. were taken from Bergün to the summit. Snow and weather magnificent. The Tödi was climbed on December 31 by Prof. Gröbli, with a single guide. Many smaller expeditions are reported, so that winter ascents may be considered to have passed out of the stage of startling events and to have become a recognised form of mountaineering. The innovation of dispensing with guides under such novel circumstances is one, however, of very doubtful expediency.

MOUNTAINEERING WITHOUT GUIDES.—We learn that Mr. F. Gardiner and Messrs. C. & J. Pilkington accomplished, between July 19 and August 18 last summer, a number of expeditions, in addition to the Jungfrau from the Wengern Alp, described in the present number, no guides being taken on any of them. The list includes the Susten-

horn from the Stein Alp, crossing to the Trifthütte by the Thieralpljoch, the Dammastock, Wetterhorn (crossed from Rosenlauri to Grindelwald), the Finsteraarhorn, Mönchjoch, Peteragrät, Gross Nesthorn, from Ried by way of the Beichgrat, descending to Visp by the Gredetschjoch and Thal, Matterhorn (up and down from Zermatt in one day), Col d'Hérens, Col du Grand Cornier, Moming Rothhorn (crossed from Mountet hut to Zermatt). We most heartily congratulate these enterprising gentlemen on having carried out successfully so splendid a series of expeditions without guides, which we believe is without parallel in Alpine history.—Ed.

CONGRESSES OF THE FOREIGN ALPINE CLUBS.—The annual *fête* of the French Alpine Club was held at the little village of Pralognan, in the Tarentaise, on August 14 last. There were about 200 members and friends (including twenty ladies) present, most of them coming up in the course of the day from Moûtiers. The banquet took place, in the early evening, in a marquee erected on a level meadow in full view of the Grande Casse, which, however, obstinately concealed itself the greater part of the time, the magnificent weather of the previous six weeks having most unfortunately broken the night before. Mons. Xavier Blanc, the President of the Club, was in the chair, and was supported by Mons. Talbert, Mons. André Puisseux, the Presidents of the Tarentaise, Maurienne and Côte d'Or sections, the Sous-Préfet of the Department, the mayors of Moûtiers, Brides, Bozel, and Pralognan, &c., &c. The Paris, Tarentaise, Lyons, and Chambéry sections were those most numerously represented. The whole affair was most successful, and the *coup d'œil*, when the Chinese lanterns were lighted inside, while blazing torches were placed at intervals around outside the tent, was very striking. Many speeches were made, but no toast was more enthusiastically received than that of the Foreign Clubs, which were represented by the President and several members of the Geneva section, and by the Editor of the 'Alpine Journal,' who desires to acknowledge publicly the courteous and flattering reception he met with as the solitary representative of the English Club. The evening was wound up by a display of fireworks, and the assembly dispersed carrying with it pleasant recollections of old friendships renewed and new ones formed. Bad weather prevented many of the projected excursions from being made, and imprisoned the few who stayed on at Pralognan in Mons. Favre's fair little Hôtel de la Vanoise. Pralognan is the most central point of the Tarentaise, and many ascents may be made from it, while passes lead in every direction. It is now connected with Moûtiers by a carriage road.

The Congress of the Italian Club took place at Milan on August 31, and was very numerously attended, about 275 members being present. It seems to have been a brilliant success, but was saddened by the recent death of Signor D. Marinelli. The excursion (Sept. 1-2) to the Monte Grigna (2,410 m.), above the Lake of Como, proved attractive to a large number of tourists, sixty-three of whom opened the new Club-hut (capable of holding twenty-four persons, and situated at a height of 1,876 m.) on that mountain, and of these fifty-three persevered to the top of the peak, despite very bad weather; a supper was

given at Esaino in the evening by the Milan section. The meeting next year will be at Biella. The extraordinary Assembly of Delegates from every section of the Club resolved, on December 11 last, that, from the commencement of 1882, the Club would publish at the end of each month a *Rivista Alpina Italiana*, the *Bollettino* retaining its former title but becoming an annual publication, an arrangement just adopted by the French Club, and which therefore, it may be presumed, is found to be the most convenient plan.

The Club-Fest of the Swiss Alpine Club took place at Basel on September 10 and following days. One hundred and sixty members, besides those belonging to the Basel section, were present. The weather was very favourable and everything went off well, but the sad news of the Elm landalip arriving in the midst of the festivities caused a great sensation, and a collection was at once made for the sufferers. The Central Assembly approved the contract for insuring the lives of guides, entered into by the Central Committee with the Insurance Company 'Zürich' for three years, on the basis of the plan mentioned in our August number. More than 100 guides (mostly Oberland men) took advantage of this arrangement during the past summerseason. Mr. Whymper was elected an honorary member, and Neuchâtel fixed on for the *fête* of 1882. It was also resolved to take part in the International Congress of Alpine Clubs which is to meet at Salzburg in 1882. The Diablerets section was selected as the seat of the central government of the Club for the next three years. The Club includes about 2,500 members.

The German Club held its eighth general meeting at Klagenfurt in Carinthia on August 21-3. The night *fête* (August 21) at Portschach and on the Wörthensee seems to have been very splendid. The general meeting and banquet were held at Klagenfurt next day. Many mountain excursions had been arranged by the neighbouring sections of the Club, but most of the strangers preferred to visit the caves of Adelsberg, near Trieste. The Congress was greatly favoured by weather, but the heat seems to have been overpowering. It may be mentioned that this Club now numbers over 9,000 members.

An International Alpine Congress (which will be at the same time the ninth General Assembly of the German Alpine Club) will meet at Salzburg in the latter half of August next. Alpine maps, glacier phenomena, the construction of club huts, are specially enumerated as subjects for discussion; but other points may be raised by members of the Congress. Members of every Alpine Society are invited to attend. A detailed programme will be published in April.

AIGUILLE DE GRÉPON.—As the attention of climbers has lately been directed towards the Aiguille des Charmoz, it may not be out of place to point out the singular disagreement of the best guide-books and maps as regards the position of the Aiguille de Grépon with relation to the Charmoz. There appear to be two main opinions. One attributes to the Grépon a height of 12,044 feet (3,670 mètres), and places it west of the Charmoz. We find this idea in the panoramas in Joanne's 'Suisse,' and in Murray's 'Switzerland' (except in the latest edition of the latter), in Mr. Ball's 'Alpine Guide' (Western Alps edition of 1875, p. 200), and in Mr. Reilly's 'Map of the Chain of

Mont Blanc,' though this last altogether suppresses the Aiguille du Plan, attributing its height to the Grépon.

The other better accredited opinion makes the Grépon 9,403 feet (2,866 mètres high), and places it north of the Charmoz. So De Saussure,* Bourrit,† Wills ‡ (who calls it Petit Charmoz), Mieulet's 'Carte du Massif du Mont Blanc,' Viollet-le-Duc (in the diagram on his map, and in the text of the book, 5-6), Tschudi,§ the map in M. Durier's book on Mont Blanc, and Joanne.||

The Col effected by M. Guyard in 1876 between the Charmoz and the Grépon, and called by him *Col de la Bâche*,¶ seems to be the same as the *Passage de l'Étala* mentioned by Mr. Wills.**

The Grépon was ascended before 1856,†† and it is to this peak that Mr. J. A. Hutchison's note †† really refers.

DEATH OF PETER EGGER.—This well-known Grindelwald guide met with an untimely end on November 14 last under very distressing circumstances. The following particulars are derived from a letter in the 'N. Alpenpost,' by Herr Strasser, the pastor of Grindelwald:—With Herr Hans Anderfuhren of Interlaken, Rudolf Kaufmann, and Peter Schlegel he started on November 13 for the Bergli hut on the Mönchjoch, as the Bern section of the S.A.C. proposes to rebuild it and wished for information as to its actual condition. Below the Kalli, at the point marked 2,824 mètres on the Federal map, Schlegel was taken ill: it was then resolved that the others should push on to the hut, a short half an hour beyond, as darkness was coming on, and that one of them should return for Schlegel. On the way they had to pass two great crevasses. Soon after arriving at the hut, Egger went back to the upper of these crevasses and called for Schlegel, but receiving no answer and thinking that he was not required, remounted to the hut. Soon, however (a little before 7 P.M.), a shout was heard from Schlegel, and his two comrades prepared to descend to meet him. But their lantern was in Schlegel's knapsack, with part of the provisions, and that belonging to the hut had entirely disappeared. So Egger arranged a make-shift in the usual way by sticking a bit of candle in the neck of a bottle, the lower part of which had been broken off. Kaufmann accompanied Egger to the great upper crevasse, and, after making the rope fast to his axe, planted in the snow, in order to aid in bringing up Schlegel, returned to the hut. Egger soon reached the sick man, and apparently began helping Schlegel to put his English lantern together. While holding his improvised candlestick in order to assist his comrade, Egger in some way struck the bottle with his right hand and severed the radial artery. The blood at once spirted out in such a way as to terrify both men. Schlegel bound up the wound, but could not check the flow of blood. They called for aid, but their comrades above did not dare descend,

* *Voyages dans les Alpes*, vol. ii. p. 55.

† *Nouvelle Description des Alpes*, vol. iii. p. 149. ‡ *Wanderings*, p. 87.

§ *Savoien*, p. 70; *Tourist in der Schweiz*, 22nd edit. p. 538.

|| *Jura et Alpes Françaises*, p. 414

¶ *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. p. 344; *Annuaire du C. A. F.*, 1876, p. 229.

** *Wanderings*, p. 187.

†† Wills' *Wanderings*, loc. cit.

‡‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 95.

having no rope or light. When the moon rose, Herr Anderfuhren and Kaufmann came down, bringing hot chocolate. By that time Egger had become very weak. He was placed in a hole dug in the snow and wrapped up in the flannel shirts which his comrades stripped off. Schlegel was left to watch him, and the other two hurried down to get aid from Grindelwald, but poor Egger succumbed about 6 A.M., long before their return. Schlegel waited an hour more, and then, covering up the body, went down to the valley. The body was brought down next day by a strong party of guides. Egger was forty-nine years old, and leaves a widow and four children (three quite young), subscriptions for whom will be gratefully received by Herr Gottfried Strasser, pastor of Grindelwald. Herr Strasser had received up to December 31 about 2,000 francs for the relief of the unfortunate man's family. It may be mentioned that he had insured his life under the scheme mentioned in our August number; the insurance terminated on October 15 with the end of the summer climbing season, but we are pleased to learn that the Insurance Company have sent 500 francs to Herr Strasser for Egger's family. He had been a guide since 1863, but was perhaps better known to Swiss than to English climbers. Among his chief feats were the second ascents of the Schreckhorn and the Bietschhorn, the first of the Mönch from the Wengern Alp, of the Lauterbrunnen Breithorn, of the Lauteraarhorn, and of the Wetterhorn from the Huhnergutz Gletscher, and the ascent of the Mönch in January 1874. He had also travelled in the Pennine and Graubünden Alps. He was an ornament to his profession, and his loss will be deeply felt.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.—The Editor has to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a guinea for Mr. F. F. Tuckett for the Imseng and a guinea from Mr. H. Wagner for the Pedranzini fund; also of a guinea from Mr. H. Wagner towards the support of Christian Inäbnit.

ALPINE DINNER AT GRASMERE.—It is proposed by some members of the Alpine Club to dine at Brown's Prince of Wales Hotel, Grasmere, on Saturday, April 15. The cost of the dinner will be one guinea a head. Morning dress. Further particulars will be announced in the Club circulars, but intending diners will oblige by giving as early notice as practicable either to Mr. E. Hulton, Union Club, Manchester, or to Mr. F. Gardiner, Gresham Buildings, 101 Dale Street, Liverpool.

THE BERGSTURZ AT ELM.—The little village of Elm in the Sernfthal, though lying rather out of the beat of ordinary travellers, is doubtless known, at least by name, to many of our members. The terrible catastrophe which has overwhelmed it, and which it is said will entail the abandonment of the old site, has been so fully described in the newspapers, that a short notice may suffice here. According to the 'N. Alpenpost' of Zürich, there had been premonitory rumblings and quakings for several days previously, so that the Cantonal authorities had forbidden the cutting of wood, and recommended the stopping of the slate quarrying in the most exposed spots. But no one was prepared for the extent of the fall which took place at 5 P.M. on Sunday, September 11. The land, rocks, and woods below a rugged rocky summit gave way and fell a distance of 1,500–2,000 ft. It started from the point marked 1,642 mètres above the Tschingelwald, S. of

Elm, went first in a N.E. direction to Gehren over the Plattenberg quarry, then through the Unterthal in the direction of Schwände. A few houses only were destroyed by this first fall, and the villagers of the neighbouring hamlets were hastening to aid the unfortunate people when two new and more terrible falls took place and overwhelmed all—rescuers and sufferers. The entire hamlet, and also all the quarry buildings, of Unterthal, are destroyed, and 114 lives at least lost. In all twenty-two dwelling-houses and fifty stables have been swept away. The loss of the stock of slates alone is estimated at 30,000 francs. The former site is covered by a mass of rocks and débris, in parts 100 feet deep. According to Prof. Heim's official report, the fallen mass (the estimated weight of which is 20,000,000 tons) extends for $1\frac{1}{4}$ m., and covers an area estimated at a square kilomètre. The great danger now is the threatened fall of the rocky Risikopf, already much shattered. This would produce even greater destruction, and as heavy rain or the sudden melting of the winter snow would bring it down in one mass, attempts have been made to avert this catastrophe by bombarding it with artillery, with the idea of gradually breaking up the huge mass. But as yet they have not been attended with any great degree of success. The causes assigned for this great landslip, which exceeds in magnitude all that have taken place since the destruction of Goldau by the fall of the Rossberg in 1806, are the accumulation of water in the slate quarries, which have not been carefully drained, and the shock caused by the blasting. The inhabitants of Elm subsisted partly by pastoral pursuits, partly by slate-quarrying. The news reached the Swiss Alpine Club during the 'Fest' at Basel; and 1,000 francs was at once voted, besides large private subscriptions, for which there is urgent necessity, as continued rumblings threaten a new disaster.

BREILHORN (Furggengrat).—I could not help noticing as I passed from Mr. Whymper's 'Breiljoch' * along the Furggengrat last summer that the highest point in the Grat has no name of any sort ascribed to it. The eminence referred to has the appearance, as seen from the Zermatt valley, of a stunted snow pyramid capped by a small tower of rock. This point lies immediately to the west of the Theodulhorn. The latter is marked 3,472 mètres in the Federal map, whilst the peak I refer to is put down as 3,498 mètres, and is clearly the higher of the two. Would it not be appropriately named if called, in future, the 'Breilhorn'? The name 'Furggenhorn' is already allotted to a small peak (2,383 mètres) near Grindelwald; and moreover the pass made by Mr. Whymper in 1863, styled by him 'Breiljoch,' is connected with the point referred to (3,498 mètres). Mr. Morshead's pass (made likewise in 1863), which lies immediately at the base of the Matterhorn, at the extreme west end of the 'Grat,' is separated from Mr. Whymper's pass by a low peak, and may, not inaptly, be termed as the Furggenjoch, † whilst the title 'Matterjoch' may be fairly excluded from the map of the district for the sake of clearness. At present 'Matterjoch' is used as the name of Mr. Morshead's pass, and also as a synonym of the Col S. Théodule ‡ in the same ridge.

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* *Soramblés*, pp. 137, 138.

† *Ibid.* p. 138, note.

‡ Federal map and S. A. C. map.