

little graveyard at Grindelwald—our old guide lies sleeping. But many a year shall pass, Andreas, before we, who knew you best, shall forget your true and gallant heart !
J. O. M.

The news of poor Maurer's death was a great shock to me. I had often tested his excellent qualities, and not merely in the Alps, for he had been my faithful companion on my Himalayan journey. He then proved himself a man able to take command of a large number of half-bewildered natives, and at the same time was of the greatest service in many matters which are most important on such a journey—acting as cook and hunter, aiding in the photographic and scientific work done, and looking after the supply of provisions, a very difficult matter in an uninhabited country. He was a man fit for exploration in distant regions, and, as I can testify in the case of my severe illness in Asia, ready to make every sacrifice for his employer.
M. DÉCHY.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

[The expeditions recorded in the following pages are believed to fall under the definition given in an early number of this Journal; that is to say, not to have been previously accomplished by English mountaineers, or noticed in this Journal. In the cases where foreign climbers had preceded the writers', reference has, as far as possible, been made to the original accounts.]

Dauphiné District.

COL DE L'AILEFROIDE (3,306 mètres = 10,847 feet). *June 17.*—M. Henry Duhamel with the two Gaspards crossed this new pass between the Ailefroide and the Pic du Sélé. Starting from the Refuge Puiseux above Vallouise at 4.30 A.M., they reached the Glacier du Sélé at 6, and an hour later the broad couloir (which is in truth a glacier) which descends from the col, and which is well seen on the way up to the Col de l'Eychauda. The slope was rather steep (though there was no need of step-cutting and two great crevasses were easily crossed), and the ascent took 1 hr. 35 mins. The view is magnificent. The descent on the west side required some care, as the rocks are steep and rotten; in 40 minutes a glacier distinct from the Pilatte glacier was gained and crossed in 15 minutes. The way then lay over steep 'roches moutonnées,' and finally joined the route from the Col du Sélé. From the col to La Béarde 3 hrs. 50 mins. (actual walking).

COL DU GRAND SAUVAGE (3,175 mètres = 10,447 feet). *June 20.*—The same party traversed this new pass from the Glacier des Quirliès to the Glacier de S. Sorlin. It lies east of the Grand Sauvage, is more direct than the Col des Quirliès, and is not difficult.

PIC CENTRAL OF THE BELLEDONNE (3,008 mètres = 9,869 feet). *June 22.*—The same party, starting from the Belledonne Refuge at 3.30 A.M., reached the Col de Belledonne in 1 hr. 30 mins., and the Croix de Belledonne in half an hour more. Then descending directly by the rotten rocks of the east flank of that peak, they gained the crest of the ridge at a depression between the Pic de la Croix and the Pic

Central. Crossing two minor points, they gained the Pic Central by a narrow and difficult gully in 1 hr. 20 mins. from the Croix. The return by the same route took 1 hour, and Uriage was reached in $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours more.

LE FIFRE (3,730 mètres = 12,238 feet). June 29.—Mr. W. M. Baker, with A. Pollinger and J. M. Lochmatter, made the second ascent of this peak * by a new route. Having reached the gap between the peak and the Pic Coolidge, they followed the south arête for a short distance, then crossed the west face diagonally, getting on to the west arête about 20 feet below the top. Time (actual walking), La Bérarde to top, 5 hrs. 50 mins.; back, 4 hrs. 5 mins.

RÂTEAU, BY SOUTH-EAST FACE (3,754 mètres = 12,316 feet). August 25, 1881.—Messrs. W. E. Gabbett and W. M. Baker, with Aloys Pollinger and J. M. Lochmatter, of St. Nicholas, made the ascent of the Râteau by the south-east face, all previous ascents having been made by the south arête. Starting from La Bérarde, they followed the route of the Brèche de la Meije as far as the Glacier des Étançons. Then, turning to the left (immediately above the small final ice-fall), they crossed the glacier to the foot of the mountain, and proceeded to climb straight up the middle of the face, reaching the top in 2 hrs. 45 mins. from the glacier. This face is exceedingly steep, and early in the season there might be some danger of avalanches, but on the above occasion it proved both safe and easy. After enjoying a most magnificent view, they descended by M. Cordier's route to La Grave, but did not exactly follow the course described by M. Duhamel.† Instead of following the arête all the way to the Brèche de la Meije, they left it as soon as they got to the cross-ridge which divides the Glacier du Râteau from the Glacier de la Brèche. Following this cross-ridge till it became too steep, they then turned to the right, and descended to the Glacier de la Brèche, rejoining the Brèche de la Meije route, just above the Entfethores rocks. The arête proved much easier than had been expected, but the ice wall above the Glacier de la Brèche was both steep and hard, so that a good deal of time was spent in cutting steps down it.

COL DE GROS JEAN. July 4.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his son Christian, effected a new pass lying between the central and southern Aiguilles d'Arves. Having gained the base of the Aiguilles by the ordinary route through the Vallon des Aiguilles d'Arves (about 4 hours from Valloires), they then mounted grass and *débris* slopes to the glacier below the new pass in an hour more. The ascent up the glacier to the foot of the final ridge took 1 hr. 20 mins. Much time was consumed in several attempts to scale the formidable rock wall which defends the pass on this side. Finally, by means of a gully far to the left, beyond a conspicuous black water-stained cliff, a certain height was gained: a difficult rock climb, ending with the traverse of a slope of snow placed at a very high angle on a smooth bit of rock, then led to the pass—55 minutes' actual walking from the glacier. A short snow couloir led down to the snow slope on

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 346.

† *Ibid.* vol. x. p. 266.

the other side, the grass being gained in 50 minutes from the col, and the châteaux of La Sausse in 45 minutes more.

The name proposed for the pass is taken from the local nomenclature for the three Aiguilles—Gros Jean, Jean Jean, and Petit Jean.

In 1880 Mons. Benoist, having reached the col from La Sausse, ascended the central Aiguille d'Arves, joining high up on the southern face the route taken in 1839.*

TÊTE DE CHÉRET (3,159 mètres = 10,365 feet). *July 15.*—The same party having reached the Pilatte glacier in 2 hrs. 10 mins. by the usual route from La Bérarde, mounted along it and the Glacier du Says for 40 minutes; then, bearing to the right, ascended in 40 minutes over rocks and grass to the lowest point of the glacier (locally known as Glacier de Baverjat) on the eastern flank of the peak. Striking across it to the north till they sighted the highest peak, and then turning to the left, they gained the ridge some way to the south in 45 minutes. Bearing across the base of a lower summit, then up a conspicuous snow couloir, and easy though steep rocks, the highest peak was gained in half an hour (4 hrs. 55 mins. from La Bérarde). The view of the Ecrins and Ailefroide is very striking. Returning to the point reached on the ridge (which is to the north of a bold aiguille rising between the Chéret and the Pic du Says, 3,472 mètres), easy rocks and long snow slopes led in 40 minutes to that branch of the Glacier du Chardon which descends from the Col du Chardon, whence 1 hr. 55 mins. more took them to La Bérarde.

The first (and apparently only previous) ascent of the peak was made by the same route on September 5, 1878, by M. James Nérot, † who seems to have descended to the Chardon glacier direct from the head of the couloir between the two summits. The lowest depression in the ridge between the Chéret and the Pic du Says lies south of the aiguille mentioned above, and could be crossed without apparently any difficulty.

TÊTE DE CHARRIÈRE (3,442 mètres = 11,293 feet). *July 18.*—The same party effected the second ascent of this peak. Starting from the Brèche de Charrière they climbed up the southern face, the rocks of which towards the summit are steep and rotten. Ascent, 50 mins.; descent, 1 hr. 10 mins. The first ascent was made on August 28, 1876, by M. Albert Guyard, who took the same route. ‡

PIC DE LA BÉLARDE, OR DÔME DES ÉCRINS (3,980 mètres = 13,053 feet). *July 20.*—The same party made what is apparently the second ascent of this peak—the snow dome to the west of the Ecrins—at the foot of which several of the early explorers of Dauphiné retreated when engaged in attempts on the Ecrins. The ascent is easily made in a few minutes from the bergschrund of the Ecrins. The view is extremely fine. It was first ascended on July 20, 1877, by M. E. Boileau de Castelnau by a very dangerous couloir from the Glacier du Vallon; § but, owing to the neighbourhood of the Ecrins, does not seem to have

* 3^{me} *Bulletin de la Section Lyonnaise du C. A. F.* pp. 53–55; *A. J.* x. 414.

† *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1878, pp. 138–40.

‡ *Ibid.* 1876, pp. 214–16.

§ *Bulletin du C. A. F.* 1877, pp. 301–2.

attracted any other visits until the ascent described above. It is, however, well worth the while of parties crossing the Col des Ecrins, and prevented from, or not desiring to, ascend the Ecrins, to mount to this point, the view from which almost equals that from the higher peak.

COL JEAN GAUTHIER July 21.—The same party made the second travellers' passage of this col. Starting from the Refuge Tuckett, they mounted steep stony and moraine slopes for 50 minutes, and in 50 minutes more, crossing a glacier, reached the base of the left-hand of the two snow couloirs seen to the extreme right, just north-west of the highest point of the Crête des Pavous. The snow being in admirable condition, this was ascended in 35 minutes, the col (where M. Rochat's cairn and card were found) being thus gained in $2\frac{1}{4}$ hours from the Refuge. The right-hand couloir would lead to a point practically the same, but is much steeper. To the south the col is separated by snow fields and three small peaks from the Col de Seguret Foran,* while to the north a low rocky point divides it from the Col Tuckett,† the descent from which on the south side lies down an entirely distinct glacier. A quarter of an hour's run down snow slopes led to the great rock buttress which supports a great part of the Glacier du Monestier. Keeping slightly to the right of this, the middle plateau of the glacier was gained in half an hour, and the ice quitted 5 minutes later for the moraine of the left bank, the descent of which was rather unpleasant, owing to numerous stones rattling down from the glacier above. The Refuge Chancel was reached in 1 hr. 5 mins., and Monestier in 1 hr. 15 mins. more (3 hrs. 10 mins. from the col). The times may, owing to the very menacing state of the weather, be taken as representing very quick walking.

The pass was discovered and crossed on July 24, 1876, by Jean Gauthier and P. A. Reymond, both of Vallouise; and taken again from Monestier on August 26, 1876, by M. Edouard Rochat, with Jean Gauthier.‡ When the snow in the couloir is in good condition, it is much the shortest route from the Lautaret road to the Glacier Blanc.

ROCHE DU GRAND GALIBIER (3,242 mètres = 10,637 feet). July 23.—The same party crossed this peak by two new routes. Starting from the Lautaret Hospice, they gained the châteaux of La Mandette on the Galibier road in 50 minutes by a pleasant walk over pastures. Keeping to the right, they gained in 35 minutes the end of a great spur (coming down from the ridge west of the peak), whence Monestier is well seen. Climbing along this more or less, and then bearing to the right across slopes of stones, they gained the base of the peak in an hour. A climb up easy though rather rotten rocks on the south-west face, mainly through a great couloir, led direct to the summit in 55 minutes more (3 hrs. 20 mins. from the Hospice). The view of the Meije and Ecrins is very grand. Descending for 10 minutes down the south-east ridge to the depression between the two summits, the party then descended the great snow couloir (which

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 94.

† *Ibid.* vol. ix. p. 359.

‡ *Bulletin du C. A. F.* 1876, pp. 236–38.

strongly resembles that on the Col des Ecrins, but is much broader) on the north-east face, crossing the bergschrund in 25 minutes, the snow being in first-rate condition. The moraine on the left bank was reached 5 minutes later. In 45 minutes more the party succeeded in forcing a passage down the steep rocks to the left of the moraine (future travellers are advised to keep to the right down the moraine all the way), and the châteaux of Les Mottes were gained in 35 minutes more. A quarter of an hour later the path led into the Galibier char road, which led to Valloires in 1 hr. 55 mins. more (4 hrs. 10 mins. from the top). The first travellers' ascent was made by M. A. Salvador de Quatrefages on October 1, 1877. The route, taken from the Hospice, lay through a couloir on the south-west face much farther to the right than the way described above, the final ridge being gained half an hour from the summit at a point where there is a small tarn at the head of a snow slope (by which it is practicable to descend into the Vallon de la Ponsonnière); bearing to the left along the base of the second summit, he gained the head of the great couloir, and so the cairn on the summit.*

Cottian District.

AIGUILLE DE SCOLETTE (3,500 mètres = 11,484 feet, French map) OR PIERRE MENUE (3,572 mètres = 11,720 feet, Baretto). July 29.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with the two Almers, ascended this peak. Starting from the Granges du Fond at its north foot (4 hours from Modane), they crossed the stream, and, rounding a buttress of the peak for a short distance, struck straight up steep *débris* and rocky slopes, gaining (in 1 hr. 30 mins.) the north-west ridge, just to the right of a great crest of snow a good bit higher than the point marked 2,909 mètres on the French map. Mounting along the broad and easy ridge, the party in 35 minutes reached a great cairn (probably built by Italian climbers to show the point at which the ridge is struck by parties following the usual route from the Col de Pelouse to the west), and in 15 minutes more the top of the first of the three teeth forming the highest ridge. Skirting round the east base of this (the first step being a little awkward), and climbing over the summit of the second tooth, they followed the crest without difficulty to the cairn on the third and highest tooth (30 minutes from the top of the first tooth, or 2 hrs. 50 mins. walking from the huts). The view was cloudy but extended from the Pennine to the Maritime Alps, the peak being the highest in the Cottian range between the Charbonel and the Viso. The lake on the Mont Cenis and the view down into the valley of Rochemolle were striking features. The return by the same route (save that the lowest tooth was turned by its west flank) occupied—to top of lowest tooth, 25 minutes; to great cairn, 15 minutes; to huts, 1 hr. 20 mins.; total, 2 hours. As the weather delayed the start till very late, and continued more or less menacing all day, the time given may be taken as unusually fast. The same party, in an attempt on June 30, gained the summit of the

* *Annuaire du C. A. F.* vol. iv. pp. 243-46; *Annuaire de la S. T. D.*, vol. iii. pp. 183-88; cf. *Annuaire du C. A. F.* vol. v. p. 131.

lowest tooth by nearly the same route, but a violent storm and entire ignorance of the ground prevented further progress. The first ascent of the peak (after several attempts) was made by Dr. M. Baretto, with A. Sibille and P. Médail, on August 3, 1875, starting from the Col de Pelouse; but following the route above described in the final climb to the summit.* It has since been frequently ascended by Italian climbers. On July 17, 1881, a party headed by Signor L. Barale climbed the last peak straight up the north face, finding it very difficult.† A view of the highest ridge will be found at page 368 of Martelli and Vaccarone's 'Guida alle Alpi occidentali del Piemonte.' It may be noted that the French map gives the name of Pierre Menue to a cairn-crowned peak marked 3,253 mètres, and a little to the east of Scolette.

MONT CHABERTON (3,135 mètres = 10,286 feet, Piedmontese map; 3,138 mètres = 10,296 feet, French map). August 30.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, alone, starting from the village of Mont Genève (7,103 feet), on the pass of the same name, followed the high road towards Césanne for a short distance beyond the obelisk, and then took a path to the left which led round the mountain slopes into the Vallon des Baises, the shepherd's hut in which was reached in 40 minutes. Continuing to ascend the valley, a flat stony tract was gained, and the fine Fontaine des Baises passed in 20 minutes. Striking across this tract and ascending by a path up very stony slopes to the right of a deep cleft, the Col de Chaberton, or du Carrier (whence it is possible to descend to Fénils, between Césanne and Oulx)—the depression to the north of the peak—was gained in an hour. Hence a tedious ascent by a faint track up the northern ridge led, in 55 minutes, to the great 'signal' on the top (2 hrs. 55 mins., quick walking).

The view was extremely fine (the peak being higher than its neighbours), extending from Mont Blanc to the Maritimes, and included the fortresses of Briançon and Exilles, as well as the village on the Genève. The return to the col took 20 minutes; thence to the Fontaine, 30 minutes; thence to the starting point, 55 minutes; in all, 1 hr. 45 mins. The ascent is perfectly easy, though rather stony, but seems to have been hitherto overlooked by English travellers, though the peak commands a very fine panoramic view. It lies entirely in Italian territory.

PUNTA ROGNOSA DI SESTRIÈRES (3,277 mètres = 11,052 feet, Piedmontese map). August 31.—The same gentleman, alone, starting from the Baracone (6,788 feet) or Hospice on the Col de Sestrières (leading from Césanne to Fenestrelle and Pinerolo), gained, in a few minutes, by rolling grass slopes, the valley of the Chisonetto, and, following sheep tracks along the rough west flank of the valley, reached the pastures at its head, at the level of the stream, in 55 minutes. Ascending over trackless wastes of stones, he gained, in 50 minutes, by a fatiguing ascent (at the end rather steep), the second depression to the right, or north-east, of the peak—the Passo di San Giacomo of the map—whence it is easy to descend into the upper part of the valley of

* Baretto, *Per Rupi e Ghiacci*, pp. 26-30.

† *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1881, pp. 462-63

the Dora Riparia. Following a faint track along the ridge, he passed over a minor point, and, by long slopes of stones, gained the great cairn on the summit in an hour; in all, 2 hrs. 45 mins., fast walking. The view was most magnificent, including Monte Rosa, Mont Blanc, and nearly every peak in the Graian, Dauphiné, and Cottian ranges. The Italian plains were clearly seen, but Turin was not distinguishable, though from the observatory there the cairn on the peak is visible. This summit is admirably situated for a complete panorama of the south-west Alps, but seems to have been hitherto exclusively visited by Italian climbers. On the return, the higher of the two depressions mentioned above was gained in 10 minutes, and a very rough descent over loose rocks on the north-east face effected to the highest pastures in an hour, whence 45 minutes sufficed to regain the Baraconne; in all, 1 hr. 55 mins. The ascent should certainly be made by any climbers who happen to find themselves in this neighbourhood.

MONTE ALBERGIAN (3,038 mètres = 9,968 feet, Piedmontese map). *September 3.*—The same gentleman, alone, starting from Massello (where he had been most hospitably received by the Waldensian pastor), in the valley of San Martino, followed the ordinary path past the Balsiglia (so famous in Vaudois history), up steep zigzags to the huts of Lauson del Piz (2 hrs. 5 mins.). Thence the track to the Colle del Piz was followed past a curious cairn with steps formed by projecting stones to a dreary upland valley (the Monte Pelvo towering up grandly to the left). In 55 minutes from the huts the path was left and a stony ascent made to the Colle dell' Albergian in half an hour (3 hrs. 30 mins.—8,498 feet). It is guarded by a line of entrenchments, and plays an important part in Vaudois history. The peak was now seen for the first time. Descending a short distance, a fatiguing ascent over stones led, in 45 minutes, to a cairn on the south ridge about midway between the peak and the Grand Mioul. A path then led around, or across, 'I Tre Truc,' or three pinnacles, and along the south ridge to the shattered summit crowned by a huge cairn (30 minutes—1 hr. 15 mins. from the col). The view of the Dauphiné and Viso ranges was very fine. The fortifications of Fenestrelle seemed at one's feet. Returning, in 15 minutes, to the first cairn, a faint path was discovered, which traverses the entire stony slope, and joins the main track just below the col, which was regained in 40 minutes from the summit. Taking a well-marked mule track, which starts from the col and is apparently identical with the black line traced on the map, the Colle del Piz track was rejoined in the dreary valley, the huts reached in 50 minutes from the col, the Balsiglia in 55 minutes, and Massello in another 50 minutes; 2 hrs. 35 mins. from the col.

There is no difficulty in this excursion, but as the route lies nearly entirely over stony tracts it is fatiguing and wearisome.

According to M. de Rochas d'Aiglun's map of the Vaudois valleys (published in the 'Annuaire de la Société des Touristes du Dauphiné pour 1881,' and also in his book on the Vaudois valleys), this peak is exceeded in height in its immediate neighbourhood by the Mont Chinivert or Gunivert alone (3,050 mètres). It is believed that no account of the ascent has been previously published.

L'AIGUILLETTE, OR PAIN DE SUCRE (8,216 mètres = 10,552 feet, 'Carte de la Frontière des Alpes'; 8,202 mètres = 10,506 feet, large French map). *September 8.*—The same gentleman, alone, starting from Abriès, reached Ristolas in 40 minutes by the high road; then, following the path along the right bank of the Ségure torrent, gained, in 2 hrs. 5 mins., the little lake near its head marked on the map. Striking up the *débris* slopes above it, and bearing south-east, he gained the depression between the points marked 2,903 mètres and 3,006 mètres in 1 hr. 5 mins. more. This is the Col du Fond du Ségure, and commands a fine view of the Roche Taillante and Lac Egourgeou. Descending the steep slopes and bearing steadily to the right, 35 minutes sufficed to reach the shores of the Lac Foréant, and half an hour more the Col Vieux.* Thence, keeping up the north-west ridge or face, shaly at first, composed higher up of unstable and smooth rocks, he reached the great cairn on the peak in 55 minutes. The view was entirely hidden in clouds, but should be very grand in the direction of the Viso. Descending by the south-west ridge and face (far preferable to the other), the path of the Col Agnel was joined in three quarters of an hour near a cross a short distance below the pass on the French side, and the Refuge Agnel in another quarter of an hour. It is perfectly possible to go *direct* from the Ségure valley to the Refuge Agnel without making the *détour* by the Col Vieux.

MONTE MEIDASSA (8,105 mètres = 10,188 feet). *September 18.*—The same gentleman, with Giovanni Perrotti as guide, starting from Crissolo, followed the Traversette path to the point at which the routes to the col and the tunnel separate (4 hours ordinary walking). Thence, in 1 hr. 35 mins., over great masses of rock, and (apparently) *débris*, they gained the first cairn, and in 5 minutes more the great cairn built by the engineers on the peak. The view from the top was cloudy, but the Viso, the deep Val Pellice, and the Piedmontese plain, could be partially distinguished. The return to the bifurcation took 40 minutes; but, when there are not several feet of fresh snow, as on occasion of this ascent, the excursion should not take more than one hour up and half an hour down, and should be made by all who pass this way. The Monte Granero (8,170 mètres) of the new map is a fine rock peak, called, by Perrotti, the Roche de la Traversette. He asserted that the peak actually ascended was the true Granero, and applied the name of Meidassa to a lower point on the south ridge of that peak. The topography of this group is very puzzling indeed.

Graian District.

POINTE DE LA VALETTA (10,200 feet, estimate). *July 31.*—Mr. G. Yeld, with Henri Séraphin, of Courmayeur, made the first ascent of this peak. They ascended from the Valnontey, followed the track to the châteaux of Monei for some distance, and then, turning to the left, crossed a little glacier to the foot of the peak, which takes the form of a ridge with several teeth. A short steep slope, in part of ice, led to the rocks of the ridge. The two points nearest the Pène Blanche

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. pp. 352-53.

were the highest, and were both ascended. The party descended, for about 45 mins., straight down towards the Valeiglie, but found themselves cut off by sheer precipices. They then remounted to the summit-ridge, and gained a col to the north of the peak, from which, by an easy descent, they reached Cogne, by the Valeiglie. Approximate times: 6 hours up, 5 hours down. The party were accompanied by Rev. G. Trundle and a Valtournanche guide.

TORRE DI LAVINA (10,837 feet, A.C. map; 3,450 mètres = 11,318 feet, SS. Vaccarone and Nigra). *August 2.*—The same party started from Cogne with the intention of crossing over this peak to Ronco, but as rain fell and mists hid the summit they went up to the Col de Bardonney. After they had begun to descend towards Val Soana the weather improved, so they made a traverse towards the Col de Gravin of the A.C. map, Bocchetta di Lavina of SS. Vaccarone and Nigra. When between this and a great chasm which seems to cut the Lavina in two, they turned up the steep but easy rocks, and reached the ridge which descends from the summit of the mountain to the above-mentioned col. Thence to the top the way was quite easy; the head of the chasm, which from below looked doubtful, being passed without difficulty. They descended to Rancio, and thence by the beautiful Val Campiglia to Ronco. The route followed in the ascent is so roundabout that times would be misleading; the descent took about 5½ hours. The views after the weather cleared were superb. The oldest card in the cairn was that of Dr. M. Baretto, dated 1866.

PUNTA LAZIN (of the A.C. map, 10,500 feet, estimate). *August 4.*—The same party ascended this mountain from Ronco, and descended to Locana. They walked up the Comba Lazin, passing by two lakes and reaching the top (the end of a flat ridge) by a perfectly easy, but wearisome, climb, in great part over *roches moutonnées*. Nearly two hours were spent on the top, which commanded a fine view of the plain, as well as a noble one of the Tour St. Pierre and the eastern Graians generally. They descended to Val d'Orco by the wild Vallone di Eugio. Approximate times: 7 hours ascent; 5 hours descent.

LEVANNETTA (11,150 feet, estimate). *August 7.*—The same party made the first ascent of this fine peak, which lies between the Eastern and Central Levannas. They climbed (from the Stabilimento of Ceresole) mainly by the eastern arête. Though the rocks were in places rotten, they proved much easier than they looked; in fact, only one decidedly *mauvais pas* was met with. The top consists of a great rock, between thirty and forty feet high, divided into two nearly equal parts by a great cleft. By this cleft the summit was reached. View good, though, of course, not so fine as that from the Eastern Levanna. Approximate times: 7 hours up; 6 hours down. The party were accompanied by the Rev. G. Trundle and Giovanni Blanchetti, of Ceresole, who is an excellent rock climber.

Mont Blanc District.

DENT DU GÉANT (4,010 mètres = 13,167 feet). On July 29 the four Signori Sella, with the three Maquignaz, for the first time reached

the highest ridge of this peak; and on August 20 Mr. W. W. Graham, with Alphonse Payot and Auguste Cupelin, attained the highest tooth of that ridge. Full particulars will be found on a preceding page.

PETITE AIGUILLE DE TALÈFRE, August.—Mr. Lionel Dècle, with Daniel Ballay, and his son Jules as porter, made the ascent of this point just W. of the Aiguille de Talèfre. They were all the time in a very heavy snow-storm, but reached the summit mainly by the very long arête between the peak and a point overhanging the Pierre à Béranger hut. In good weather the ascent would be very easy, but ought to be made straight from the Glacier de Talèfre: in all probability the Aiguille de Talèfre can be reached from the peak ascended. Some days before, the same party crossed, also in a very heavy snow-storm, a new col, between the Glacier du Tour and Glacier d'Argentière.

Pennine Alps.

BEC DE CIARDONNET. August 22.—Mr. Cust, with Xavier Andermatten as guide, leaving Bionaz at 5.25 by a path ascending directly above the village, reached the pretty Alp of Berrie at 6.50. Grass ridges led to a little plain at the foot of the Bec de Ciardonnet, on one side of which was the ice-fall of the Glacier de Ciardonnet, on the other a *débris* hollow rising to a gap between the mountain and La Tête Grise, giving direct access to the Col de Crête Sèche. The *névé* of the glacier was reached (8.53) by *débris* and gently inclined rocks near its left bank; whence the mountain was directly ascended by a snow slope and easy rocks (10.50; halts about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour). The view of the Otemma glacier seen in all its length was especially interesting. The descent was by easy but tortuous passages in the rocks southwest to the plateau of the Crête Sèche, near the above-named gap, in 1 hr. 35 mins.; and by the Col de Crête Sèche (25 minutes) to Mauvoisin.

COL DU MONT FORT. August 25.—The same party, with the addition of Dr. C. Taylor, leaving Mauvoisin at 6.37, ascended from Fionnay to the Alp de la Louvie (9.37). A small glacier east of the Bec d'Agèt (reached 11.20) was ascended to a *débris* gully at its north-west corner. The col, which lies above this, is easily reached by the rocks left of it (1 hr. 5 mins., including considerable halts). The view was remarkably fine, particularly of the Grand Combin. The right foot of the Glacier du Mont Fort, which is quite easy, was reached in 1 hour; *débris* and grass slopes led down to the châteaux of Tortin, in Val Neudaz, whence Sion was reached in 4 hours. This col affords the most direct route from Mauvoisin to Sion.

Monte Rosa District.

FILLAR JOCH, July 3.—Mr. W. M. Conway, with the guide Louis Zurbrücken, crossed from Macugnaga to the Riffel by a col at the head of the Fillar glacier. Starting at 1.30 A.M. they reached the Fillar Alp in $1\frac{1}{4}$ hour. They crossed the foot of the Old Weisssthor glacier, and then mounted over rocks to the ice of the Fillar glacier, which was reached in 1 hour more. The ice-fall had to be turned by the

rocks of its left bank. In 2 hours they reached the foot of the most southerly of the two couloirs at the head of the glacier, and mounting the great rock-wall just to the right of it, reached a point on the water-shed in $2\frac{1}{4}$ hours. At the top of the rocks they built a stone man. The descent to the Riffl was made by the usual route.

FREE PASS, or false Alphubel Joch (marked 3,812 mètres on the Dufour Map). *July 18.*—Both sides of this have been already ascended (see 'Zermatt Pocket Book,' p. 80), but no passage of it as a col has as yet been recorded. Messrs. Butterman and W. M. Conway, with two English ladies, and the guides Franz, Theodor, and Adolph Andermatten, left Zermatt at 8 A.M. They reached the Taschalp bridge in 2 hours, and followed the ordinary Alphubel way for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour more, to the point where it turns up to the Wand glacier. Here they took to the Mellichen glacier, and ascended along its right side for 1 hour. Then turning to the left they ascended *débris* slopes to the col in a very easy $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour. In descending, they bore to the right over the slopes of the Allalinhorn to get round some big *schrunda*, and then went straight for the Lange Fluh, which was reached in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour from the col. The descent to Saas takes $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour more. The Allalinhorn was ascended from the col.

DOM FROM KIEN GLACIER. *July 28.*—Dr. Paul Güssfeldt, with the guides Alex. Burgener and Benedikt Venetz, ascended the Dom by the west arête. They started from the usual Täschhorn bivouac at 3 A.M., and followed the route towards the Domjoch for $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours. Then they got on to the rocks on the left by a very difficult scramble, attended with danger from some large stones which hung on an ice-wall above them. At 9.20 they reached the west arête of the Dom and stopped $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. For 1 hour they ascended the arête, then turning a little to the left they cut 140 steps up an ice-wall, which occupied $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Another hour's work over rock-slabs followed, and at 1 P.M. they hit the arête again near the point where it changes its direction from east to north. Following the narrow ridge (which was free from ice and snow), and getting round two towers in $\frac{3}{4}$ hour they reached the lower summit of the Dom, seen below to the left of the highest point when looked at from Zermatt. The highest point was attained hence in 20 minutes by the ordinary route. The descent to Randa occupied 4 hours.

HOHLENTRIFF PASS.—Mr. E. S. Balch, with Franz Burgener, crossed from Simplon to Saas by a new col, which lies between the Rauthorn and the Fletschhorn. An exceedingly difficult couloir leads to the col. The same party also made the first ascent of the second peak of the Portien Grat.

SÜDLENZ SPITZE (4,300 mètres=14,108 feet). *August 3.*—Mr. W. W. Graham, with Theodor Andermatten and Ambrose Supersax, made the ascent of this peak. Starting from a lofty bivouac above the Fee Gletscher they mounted along the granite ridge which does duty as an arête. The climb was very difficult, and the party were forced on to the face several times, and had at one spot to leap a cleft 100 feet deep and 8 wide. The summit was reached in $3\frac{1}{4}$ hours, no halts having been possible by reason of a violent cold wind. The rocks by which the descent to the Hohberg glacier was effected were coated with ice, and

consumed $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours; but under ordinary circumstances would be easy. The 'gendarmes' on the arête are very large, and the party consider this ridge to be the most difficult about Zermatt. The peak was ascended (apparently for the first time) by Mr. C. T. Dent, with Alex. and F. Burgener, in August 1870, from Saas. Starting from a bivouac on the N. side of the Hochbolm glacier, they mounted by the N.E. (?) arête so well shown in Mr. Donkin's photograph ('Alpine Journal,' Nov. 1881). No difficulties were encountered, and the descent was effected by the same way.

GÄSSIJOCH. (?) **AUSSER BARRHORN** (3,633 mètres = 11,920 feet). August 5.—Mr. J. Stafford Anderson and the Rev. F. M. Govett, with Ulrich Almer and Aloys Pollinger, starting from the comfortable Weisshorn Hôtel at Gruben at 4.15 A.M., mounted, for about $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour, in a south direction up the slopes of the Hungerli Alp; then bore east, and, after a halt for breakfast, struck north-east over moraine to the foot of some steep rocks to the east. These were ascended for about fifty feet, and the party, after cutting some steps in the nearly black ice, reached the level of the Brändi Gletscher (local name). Striking across the glacier to the north to avoid the crevasses, then bearing east, and finally south, they gained the pass at 8.45. (By bearing to the north-east, over the Brändi Gletscher, the Jungthai Joch might be gained.)

Mr. Anderson and Pollinger then ascended a bold rocky peak, apparently identical with the Ausser Barrhorn of the map. Descending south for 5 minutes, they reached the foot of a snowy couloir on the east face, raked by falling stones; cut up it for some time, and finally made straight up the rotten north-east face, reaching the pinnacle which forms the summit in about 40 mins. from the Gässijoch. Falling stones are frequent on this face. Descending from the summit for about 200 feet over rocks, they struck to the left along the rock face, and gained a small snowy col between the two peaks forming the crest of the couloir already mentioned, and one on the west face of the peak. The rocks on the right side of the latter were descended, and the Gässijoch regained from the S.W. at 11 A.M. This side of the peak was in the shade: hence the danger of falling stones was avoided. The whole party then descended to S. Niklaus by the route taken in 1880.* $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours (including halts) may be reckoned from Gruben to S. Niklaus.

The peak climbed is very prominent from the Stelli glacier, and lies almost due east of the Walkersmatt Alp. No traces of a previous ascent were found, and Pollinger asserted that it had never been climbed. A short distance to south-east was another peak (probably Inner Barrhorn), due south the point marked 3,357 mètres on Dufour's map, and, still farther south, a long snow ridge with a precipitous east face, somewhat higher than the peak climbed (? Brunegg-horn).

RIFFELHORN. August 6.—Mr. Anderson and U. Almer made a probably new route up the final peak of this mountain. Ascending

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 96.

by the usual route up the west arête to the base of the last peak, they then—instead of turning towards the Gorner glacier and mounting by the usual gully—bore to the left along overhanging sloping slabs of rock, with no foothold to speak of. A small crevice running horizontally across the face above gave sufficient fingerhold for safety. After turning a nasty corner, they gained the north-west face and followed for some yards a narrow ledge, then climbed by a cleft in the rock to a second ledge, and by a very narrow second cleft reached the summit. The rope is quite necessary for this route.

DENT BLANCHE BY N.E. OR ZINAL ARÊTE AND N.W. FACE. *August 11.*—Messrs. J. Stafford Anderson and G. P. Baker, with U. Almer and A. Pollinger, starting from the Mountet Cabane at 3.50 A.M., crossed Zinal glacier, and, leaving the *Roc Noir* some distance to their right, reached the foot of second snow couloir on the east face of arête at 5.30 A.M. They then struck up rocks on the right hand of this couloir, and gained the arête at 5.45 (10,400 feet). A 'gendarme' very soon barred further progress, and some difficulty was experienced in surmounting it, one corner taking about 15 minutes to get round. The arête from this point was very steep, and was abandoned for the rock face for some distance (steep but fair going), but was regained at 7.30 (12,000 feet). Hence to the summit nothing but difficulty was encountered, two gendarmes giving considerable trouble. It was impossible to turn the first on either side, compelling trial by an unlikely looking cleft, half ledge, half gully, on north-west side of gendarme. The arête was regained by dropping on to a small tooth of rock jutting out from opposite side of narrow chasm. From second gendarme the arête was mainly followed with small *détours* to right or left according to nature of ground and difficulty. The third gendarme was very high (estimated at upwards of 200 feet); fortunately by cutting steps to left across, and then up left hand side of ice couloirs, the arête was regained without much difficulty. From this to summit arête was covered with a snow ridge some few feet in height, and in rather bad condition; final peak was attained at 3 P.M., last 2,300 feet occupying $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours without halts, except those incidental to the difficulties of the work. Weather warm but hazy. Descending by the usual route in threatening weather, the Stockje was reached 11.30 P.M. The party had been out $19\frac{1}{2}$ hours ($18\frac{1}{2}$ with the rope on), with halts of not more than one hour in all. General character of north-west face: rocks steep, smooth in many places, and bad holds, generally firm; when easier, rotten. The arête generally difficult, something like latter front of Rothhorn on Zinal side, but continuous for 2,000 feet with snow ridges and steep ice couloirs to cross thrown in. Absolutely fine and warm weather needful. No ice on the rocks, snow ridges generally soft and nasty.

WEISSMIES (13,225 feet). *August 7.*—Messrs. C. and H. Wilson, with Alois Burgener and Joseph Furrer, ascended this mountain by the south face. Starting from Saas, they followed the usual route for the Zwischbergen Pass to within about three quarters of an hour of the col; then turned to the left up a *débris* slope, and, crossing the Roththal glacier, reached the rocks at a point immediately under the

summit. They then mounted straight up them, and, after about 2 hours of interesting but not difficult climbing, completed the ascent by cutting through a cornice about fifty yards west of the summit. The ascent took 8 hours, 2 of which were spent in halts. Later in the day there would be considerable danger from avalanches and falling stones.

SIGNAL JOCH (about 12,300 feet). *July 20.*—Mr. John R. Ellerman, with the guides Abram Imseng and L. Zurbrücken, started from the Riffel at 11.55 P.M. (July 19). Crossing the Sesia Joch by the ordinary route, they reached some rocks on the left about 2,000 feet lower than the summit of the col (10.30 A.M.). Thence they crossed the face of the Signal Kuppe, always, however, slightly descending, until they crossed a large bergschrund with considerable difficulty. From a point a little lower down than this they again ascended in the direction of some rocks farther on the ridge which divides the Macugnaga from the Sesia glacier, and runs from the Signal Kuppe to the Colle delle Loccie. Climbing these across some more snow, they reached the crest of the ridge, and descended it to the true col, which is the lowest point before the arête ascends again (1.20 P.M.). They now descended to the Macugnaga glacier by a sheer wall of ice about 180 feet high, crossing another bergschrund, and arriving on the glacier at 3.15 P.M. They then bore to the left, and descended the glacier close to the face of Monte Rosa as far as some rocks in the lower part of the glacier towards the centre (4.40 P.M.). The crevasses proving troublesome and in this part impassable, these rocks were taken to and descended with some little difficulty until the glacier was regained (5.30 P.M.). They then bore to the right, and got on to the moraine at 5.55 P.M. The route then was by the Pedriolo Alp to Macugnaga, where they arrived at 8.5 P.M. The whole expedition occupied 20 hrs. 10 mins., of which not more than 1 hr. 40 mins. was spent in halts. The passage along the face of the Signal Kuppe and down the Macugnaga glacier under Monte Rosa was very dangerous, owing to falling stones and avalanches. The party was involved in an avalanche caused by a falling stone on the Macugnaga glacier about half-way down to the rocks (3.50 P.M.), and but for the second guide holding up the other two, who were carried away, all would certainly have lost their lives.

The whole expedition must be considered one of the greatest difficulty and danger, and would perhaps be best accomplished if taken from Macugnaga, and two days devoted to it; sleeping out the first night, on the rocks near the centre of the glacier about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours from Macugnaga.

The col is plainly marked on Herr Imfeld's relief map at Zermatt, being the first large depression before the ridge rises again, and quite close to the Signal Kuppe. The Colle delle Loccie is much farther on. The Colle delle Loccie route was joined near the end of the Macugnaga glacier, before getting on to the moraine.

Bernese Oberland.

LÖTSCHTHALER BREITHORN (3,795 mètres = 12,451 feet). *August 9.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with the two Almers, made the third

ascent of this peak. Having reached the Beichgrat from the Lötschthal they descended in half an hour to the level part of the Beichfirn at the foot of the great wall between the Nesthorn and the desired peak. In 1 hr. 25 mins., by the fourth couloir, counting from south to north, they gained the plateau between the two peaks; but this route is greatly exposed to falling séracs, and future travellers should take one of the two southernmost couloirs—the usual route up the Nesthorn. Easy snow slopes, cut across by large crevasses, led in about an hour to the south base of the peak. In 20 minutes they gained the snowy lower peak and in 20 minutes more the highest rocky peak (3 hrs. 35 mins. from the Beichfirn—slow walking). The view was not altogether clear; the look down into the Lötschthal is very startling. The return to the Beichfirn by the same route took 1 hr. 10 mins., and the Belalp was reached the same afternoon. There is not the slightest difficulty on any part of the ascent. The first ascent was made on August 28, 1869, by Dr. G. J. Häberlin, with the Weissenfluhs of Gadmen; * and the second by Herr E. von Fellenberg, on August 20, 1872.† The route described above was substantially taken on each occasion.

SCHIENHORN (3,852 mètres = 12,638 feet). August 11.—The same party made the second ascent of this peak. Starting from the Belalp, they gained in 3 hours the base of the crevassed glacier descending from the south flank of the peak. Ascending the glacier, keeping to its east side, the bergschrund at the foot of the peak was reached in 1½ hour. The snow being in capital condition, the south face was ascended direct in 55 minutes to the snowy top, which from below appears to be the summit. The route taken lay to the west of a great ice bastion and of an isolated rock in the face. Ten minutes more along a very sharp snow ridge led to the highest point, then a snow mound on a rocky pinnacle. The view of the Oberland was very fine, and the Lötschthal was seen in nearly all its length. The descent to the bergschrund took 40 minutes, and thence to the Belalp 3 hrs. 20 mins. The first and only previous ascent of the peak was made on August 30, 1869, by Dr. G. J. Häberlin with the Weissenfluhs. He ascended east of the great ice bastion to the south-east ridge, which he followed to the top, and descended by the route described above.‡ The Schienhorn has been strangely neglected, as, with the sole exceptions of the Bietschhorn and the Mittaghorn, it is the highest peak west of the Lötschenlücke, being 105 feet loftier than the well-known Nesthorn.

Bernina District.

MONTE DELLA DISGRAZIA BY THE NORTH-EASTERN FACE. August 14.—Messrs. E. Hulton and L. and C. Pilkington, having slept at the Ventina châlet (where Messrs. Pratt Barlow and Still spent the night previous to their ascent by the south-eastern arête in 1875), started at 3.30 A.M. without guides, and ascending the Ventina glacier to its highest plateau, reached at 9.30 the crest of the sharp ridge which runs from

* *Jahrbuch d. S. A. C.* vol. vi. pp. 83–96.

† *Itinerarium d. S. A. C.*, 1882–83, p. 134.

‡ *Jahrbuch d. S. A. C.* vol. vi. pp. 98–115.

the Monte Ventina to the Disgrazia, and which divides the Ventina and Sissone glaciers. This arête lies directly under the summit. It is shown in the Federal map at a considerable distance to the east of its true position. The arête rises sharply for a long distance up the mountain, until it finally disappears at the foot of the very steep cliffs of the north eastern face, under the highest peak. Starting again at 10, the highest cliffs were reached, partly by the arête (here a narrow edge of ice) and partly by the rocks lying to the left and somewhat below the crest of the ridge. The lower part of these cliffs was very steep, but fortunately the rocks were granite and gave good hand and foot hold. In the upper part they were more broken up and comparatively easy. The summit was reached at 11.25, the main ridge having been struck at a point east of the stone man, within three minutes of the top. The descent was made by the ordinary route, Morbegno being reached the same evening, *vid* the Val di Sasso Bisolo.

PIZ MORTERATSCH (12,316 feet). *August 23.*—Messrs. Kingscote and H. Warren, with Andreas Rauch as guide, ascended this mountain by a new route. From the Boval hut the ordinary way is followed, keeping the old moraine on the left, until the northernmost of two patches of rock descending from the main ridge which runs north and south is reached. The route lies over this patch to the foot of the main ridge, which they climbed at first nearly straight up, then bearing away to the left to a snow saddle, which is plainly seen from below, and which lies at the north side of the first conspicuous point on the south end of the ridge. After crossing the saddle, the usual route from the Roseg side is joined and followed to the top. From the foot of the ridge to the saddle occupied 1 hr. 50 min. The rock climb, which is not difficult, makes a pleasant break in the succession of snow slopes which form the ordinary route, and when the latter are in bad order, is probably quicker and safer.

ALPINE NOTES.

ROUND PINZOLO.—On June 24 last, after spending a delicious hour at sunrise on the Cima Tosa, I started again with Matteo Niccoluzzi, of Molveno, to attempt the virgin peak of the Torre di Brenta, the third considerable mass to the north of the Bocca di Brenta. Finding the southern face repellent, we made a flank movement by a couloir on the east and succeeded in scaling the northern face in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours from the pass thus gained, at the same time establishing the existence and extent of the glacier between our peak and the Cima di Brenta, of which the Austrian map takes no cognisance. For this and subsequent excursions in the group the new hut erected by the Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, close to the Bocca di Brenta, served as a most commodious head-quarters.

On the 27th, joined by the Rev. J. Armitage with old Colini of Pinzolo, we made an attack on the Busazza from the Mandrone hut in