

## NEW EXPEDITIONS.

*Dauphiné District.*

POINTE DE L'ARGENTIÈRE (3,240 mètres = 10,630 feet). *July 2.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with Christian Almer and his son Christian, made the first ascent of this peak. Starting from the Col du Goléon, they followed the ridge running N.W. and in about an hour reached the highest of the Trois Pointes des Aiguilles, which is just where that ridge joins the Goléon ridge, and where the French map places the Argentière. But the true peak lies rather more to the N.W., and was gained in half an hour more, there not being the slightest real difficulty in the ascent. The view is specially interesting as enabling one to understand the complicated topography of the group of the Aiguilles d'Arves and de la Saussaz. Fifty-five minutes' leisurely walking were occupied in the return to the Goléon. The second ascent was made independently six weeks later by MM. Paul Guillemain and G. Leser.

AIGUILLE D'ENTREPIERROUX (3,293 mètres = 10,804 feet). *July 7.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak. Starting from the Refuge at La Lavey, they gained in 1.25 the Lac des Bèches by a steep and rugged descent along the slopes on the right bank of the torrent flowing from it, crossing the stream near a waterfall. Then over rocks and snow they gained the Glacier du Lac, which fills the hollow between the desired peak and the Aiguille des Arias. Mounting by this and keeping always far to the right, they gained the upper plateau; then bearing to the left gained (2 10 from the lake) the depression in the ridge south of the narrow gap of the Col d'Entrepierroux.\* From this point, 25 minutes' climb sufficed to reach the summit by shattered rocks and an easy snow ridge (in all 4 hours' walking from La Lavey). The view of the Arias and Olan is very fine. Fifteen minutes took them back to the depression, half an hour more by glissades to the lake; bearing far to left and encountering some difficulties in descending the rocky barrier, they regained La Lavey in 1.20 (in all 2.05 from the summit).

AIGUILLE OR BEC DU CANARD (3,270 mètres = 10,729 feet). *July 8.*—The same party made the third ascent of this peak, which is so conspicuous from S. Christophe. Gaining the upper pastures in 1.05 by the same route as the day before, they then mounted the long grass spur coming from the peak, until it merged in its eastern face (2 hrs. from La Lavey), and gained the summit in 40 min. more by climbing the rocks forming the northern edge of this face (in all 3.45). There is a good view of the peaks of South Dauphiné. Striking straight down the eastern face by the great couloir and snow slope, the base of that face was gained in half an hour; then bearing to the left over snow slopes, many glissades were enjoyed and La Lavey regained in 1¾ hr. (in all 2¼ hrs. from the top) The first ascent of the peak was made on July 11, 1878, by M. Edouard Rochat with the Gaspards, who as far as the base of the final peak took the route by which the above party de-

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii, p. 98.

scended: higher up the same route; \* the second, by MM. Leser and Wurtz, on August 6, 1882.† It may be worth mentioning that the Lac des Bèches can be most conveniently reached from La Lavey by walking a short distance up the glen leading to the Glacier d'Entrepierroux, and then bearing up the grass slope to the right, the way up the rock wall above La Lavey being very steep and rough.

COL DES FÉTOULES. *July 9.*—The same party, starting from La Lavey, mounted the slopes on the east of the valley, and bearing slightly to the left gained (1.50) a huge stone man whence S. Christophe and La Lavey are visible. Descending by loose boulders to the Glacier des Fétoules in half an hour, they traversed it in 25 min. (underneath the hanging glacier) to the moraine close to the base of the Tête du Crouzet, whence 45 min. sufficed to gain the col (3.40 from La Lavey). The descent lay at first down steep rocks, the base being reached in 35 min. (From below the col is that bit of the crest to the right of the great corniche.) Snow slopes, glacier-worn rocks, and grass led in 55 min. to the stream in the Vallon des Etages, Les Etages being gained in 1¼ hr. (in all 2¾ hrs. from the col). The first passage was made on August 29, 1876, by M. Albert Guyard.‡ The pass is a pleasant variation for those who do not wish to descend to S. Christophe from La Lavey, and is very easily combined with the ascent of the Tête des Fétoules.§

TÊTE DU ROUJET (3,421 mètres = 11,224 feet). *July 11.*—The same party made the second ascent of this peak. Starting from La Bérarde, they reached the Glacier du Plaret by the usual route in 2.05, but then discovered that the route they proposed to follow (along the ridge south of the Plaret) would not bring them to the desired peak; so, bearing to the left, they traversed the glacier in half an hour, and then descended it by steep snow slopes to a branch (not marked on the maps) which fills the hollow between the Roujet and the peak marked 3,436 m. on the Carte du Pelvoux, the two peaks being separated by a narrow snow gully. Traversing this branch, then mounting to the *right* of a bit of overhanging glacier and to the *left* of a great snow slope resting on the east side of the Roujet arête, they gained the upper snow plateau, and in a few minutes more a great snow depression on the south-east ridge of the Roujet, seen very well from the path between La Bérarde and Les Etages (1 hr. from main Plaret glacier). Leaving this to the left, they climbed up steep rocks to the great S.E. arête of the Roujet (25 min.) and followed this to the summit, meeting with very considerable difficulties, being often forced on to the east face, and being obliged to traverse or circumvent several false summits (3.05, or in all 7.05 from La Bérarde). An extremely difficult rock descent on the west face of the north arête led in 45 mins. to the head of the gully above mentioned; thence easy rocks led to the Glacier des Etages, which was cleared in 25 min. Bearing far to the right, then back to the left to avoid a supposed precipice, they reached in 50 min. the grass slope at the head of the valley, whence a very badly traced

\* *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1878, pp. 150-2.

† *Ibid.* 1882, pp. 70-2.

‡ *Ibid.* 1876, p. 217.

§ *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 354.

and rugged path led down to, then along, then high above, the left bank of the Damou torrent, Les Etages being reached in 1.10 (in all 3 hrs. from the summit). This peak (which ranks among the more difficult of the Dauphiné summits) was first ascended on July 23, 1877, by M. Boileau de Castelnau with Gaspard, the route taken being by the Tête de la Maye, and so along the entire S.E. arête: the descent being made by the same way as the above party.\* The peak, 3,436 mètres, was first ascended on July 15, 1878, by M. Edouard Rochat with Gaspard, by the face above the Glacier des Etages, no real difficulties being encountered.†

**AIGUILLE CENTRALE DU SOREILLER** (3,358 mètres = 11,018 feet). *July 17.*—The same party having gained the highest grass slopes in the Combe de Damou by the same route described above (2.05 from La Bérarde), ascended by the moraine to the foot of the extraordinary needle of rock which is such a splendid sight from this valley, and by the glacier W. and N.W. of it gained the ridge immediately N. of it (2.05 from pass). Then cutting along the very hard snow-slopes to the left, they gained the foot of the desired peak (which is seen from below just to the left of the rock-needle) in 35 mins., and its summit in 35 mins. more, after a climb mainly along the S.E. face and over rocks which, near the top, were not easy (in all 5.20 from La Bérarde). The card of the first and only previous party (M. Edouard Rochat, on Sept. 28, 1877‡) was found in the cairn. This point is slightly lower than the more easterly point which was conquered on July 24, 1878, by Messrs. C. and L. Pilkington and F. Gardiner without guides.§ The return to La Bérarde was made by the same route and took 3.25.

**AIGUILLE NORD DE LA SAUSSAZ** (c. 3,304 mètres = 10,840 feet). *July 21.*—The same party made the first ascent of this peak. Having reached the Glacier Lombard from La Grave, they left the route to the Col Lombard to the right, and having nearly reached the gap between the peak and the central Aiguille, struck up to the right over the rocks (to the right of a snow gully), reaching the summit without difficulty in 20 mins. from the level of the glacier; the return by the snow gully taking 10 mins. This ascent completes the exploration of the ranges in the immediate neighbourhood of the Aiguilles d'Arves. It may be as well to state that an alleged ascent of this peak on October 2, 1877,|| was really that of a point on the south-east arête of the Southern Aiguille d'Arves. This is clear from the topographical indications given, and the author of the paper has since allowed his mistake.

**PIC DU MAS DE LA GRAVE** (3,023 mètres = 9,918 feet). *August 24.*—Mr. Coolidge, alone, made the ascent of this point, which is the highest summit between the Grandes Rousses and the Aiguilles de la Saussaz. Having gained the ridge of the Col des Prés Nouveaux at a point close to the west foot of the Cîme des Torches (4¾ hrs. from S. Jean d'Arves, of which at least one hour had been lost in trying to cross a ravine),

\* *Annuaire de la S. T. D.* vol. iii. p. 83; *Bulletin du C. A. F.* 1877, 302.

† *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1878, p. 155-7.

‡ *Ibid.* 1877, p. 257.

§ *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. pp. 91, 230.

|| *Annuaire de la S. T. D.* vol. iii. pp. 189-190.

he skirted the hill-side above several groups of chalets, and gained in 40 mins. the pastures at the head of the Combe d'Agnelin. Passing by a lake, and mounting by débris and loose stones, he gained a point high on the north arête of the peak in 1.10, and the ruined cairn on the summit in 25 mins. more (2¼ hrs. from the Prés Nouveaux ridge). The view included the Grandes Rousses, and Aiguilles de la Saussaz and d'Arves. Walking a few steps along the south ridge, he descended by slopes of débris to some snow-slopes, then bore to the left, and in ¾ hr. from the top joined at a ruined hut the path from the Col de l'Infernet, by which La Grave was gained in 2½ hrs.' more quick walking, owing to a violent local storm. There was not the slightest difficulty in this ascent, which might be taken very conveniently in the course of a day's walk from La Grave to Besse or Freney, and commands a magnificent view, though the peak does not seem to have as yet attracted the attention of tourists.

#### Cottian District.

TROIS DENTS D'AMBIN (AIGUILLE DE SAVINE, 3,382 mètres = 11,096 feet, French map. PUNTA DEL GRAN VALLONE, 3,343 mètres = 10,968 feet, New Italian Survey). August 2.—Mr. Coolidge, with the Almers, starting from the Granges de Savine (an hour from the Petit Mont Cenis), followed the track up the valley to the Lac de Savine (1 hour), whence there is a fine view of the peak. They then turned up to the right, and mounted slopes of débris and snow, crossed the glacier, and climbed up steep snow slopes, thus gaining the base of the rocks (1.55). Skirting these to the left (15 min.), and looking about for a weak point, they climbed up a steep couloir just under the central tooth, then bore to the right—the rocks being easy—and gained the col between the central and western teeth (20 minutes from the snow). Ten minutes' climb up the very steep but good rocks of the S.E. ridge and E. face brought them to the top of the W. pinnacle (3.40 from the huts), which is a little higher than the E. tooth, the middle one being much inferior. Part of the flag left on occasion of the first ascent was found, and several cards in the cairn. The view of the neighbouring peak was specially interesting, the Susa valley and Mont Blanc being also seen. Returning leisurely to the col by the same route in 25 minutes (the rocks being steep enough to require care), they descended the gully to the S.W. (i.e. towards the Vallon d'Ambin), bore to the left across steep snow slopes, and down several rocky barriers, then traversed to the right, and by a slight ascent reached (1.05 from the col) the depression between the Trois Dents and the Rochers Cléry (3,123 mètres). A series of glissades took them to a point below the little icefall, and traversing to the right, easy slopes led to the lake (35 minutes), and in 40 minutes more the huts were regained (2.20 from the peak). The first successful ascent was made on August 10, 1875, by Signor Martino Baretta with the three Sibilles of Chiomonte, the route taken being that described above as followed on the ascent.\*

\* *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1875, pp. 373-381; *Per Rupi e Ghiacci* (Turin, 1876), pp. 37-46. *Alpine Journal* vii. 316.

On August 22, 1875, SS. L. Barale and A. Balduino effected the ascent by the S.W. face\* ; and there have been three or four later ascents, all by Italian climbers. The name *Trois Dents* is that commonly used, though it does not appear on the maps. The E. tooth is on the frontier (it is to this that the height of the new Italian Map probably applies), the others are wholly in France.†

MONT D'AMBIN (3,381 mètres = 11,093 feet, French map). ROCCA D'AMBIN (3,377 mètres = 11,080 feet, New Italian Survey). August 3.—The same party, starting from Savine, crossed the stream, and mounted the ridge of the Grand Vallon immediately opposite the huts, gaining it in 25 minutes not far from a cairn. Descending on the other side, they hit on a faint track which led them at a great height along the E. side of the Vallon d'Ambin; then crossing some snow slopes, they reached the ridge which, as shown on the French map, cuts in two the Glaciers de Savine (1.25). Descending on to the S. Glacier de Savine, they crossed it to the foot of a rib of rock, coming down from the hump at the W. end of the W. arête of the peak (45 min.), climbed up it without difficulty (15 min.), and followed the W. arête to just below the last rocks, when, to avoid an ice-slope, they traversed to the N. arête, and in a few minutes gained the great cairn built by the engineers on the summit (40 min.—in all 3.30 from the hut, quick walking). The *Tre Denti* were the most striking feature of the view. The Mont d'Ambin is usually climbed by way of the Glacier d'Agnel on its E. flank. On the descent, the above party followed the N. arête for a long way, passing over several small humps, then struck down the snow slopes to the right, and bearing slightly to the left crossed a snowy ridge to the glacier which in Signor Baretta's map bears the name of Ghiaccio dei Tre Denti, and which is close under the wall of the Rochers Pénibles to the E. of the *Tre Denti* (3,134 mètres of the new Italian map), whence by a series of glissades they gained a level plateau on the glacier. They then bore to the left along this wall, and gained the crest by easy rocks, on the proper right of a small but conspicuous snow gully (50 minutes from the summit of the peak), whence glissades took them in 15 minutes to the S. end of the Lac de Savine, and 1.05 more were required to the huts (in all 2.10 from the peak, quick going). The route taken on the descent is very easy, and leads practically to the Col de Clapier, whence one can descend to Susa.

ROGNOSA D'ÉTIACHE OR PUNTA LUSSART (ROCHE DELLA ROGNOSA, 3,385 mètres = 11,106 feet, New Italian map; 3,389 mètres = 11,119 feet, French map). COL D'AMBIN OR SOMMEILLER (2,962 mètres = 9,718 feet, New Italian map). August 4.—The same party, starting from Savine, reached the ridge of the Grand Vallon near the cairn in 25 minutes, followed the track above the Ambin valley for some time, and by débris, a rocky barrier, and grass reached the stream in that valley (1.10 from the cairn). Following the very rough track along the right bank they reached the solitary shepherd's hut (55 minutes), traversed the stream by a plank a little way beyond, and after turning a corner in the valley (20 minutes from the hut), struck up the steep

\* *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1876, pp. 393-9.

† *Per Rupi*, p. 38.

grass slopes to the right, guided by a faint track which led them far to the right, then turned to the left, and brought them to the N. end of the Glacier d'Ambin (50 minutes). As the track became better defined, the party followed it, in preference to the deep snow on the level glacier, and were led by it right round the W. side of the glacier to the base of the final steep snowy ascent to the col, which was gained in 1.05 from the N. end of the glacier—4¼ hours from Savine. (This track confirms the statement made in 1739 that the col was then crossed by shepherds with their flocks).\* The weather, which had been very bad up to this time, cleared off sufficiently to allow the party to carry out their project of ascending the peak W. of the col, which is the highest of those at the head of the Vallon d'Ambin. Mounting along the snow and débris slopes N.W. of the col to the rocks of the peak, the party then bore to the right by snow and climbed up some very rotten rocks on its N. side, to what appeared to be the summit, but was not. So they climbed along the ridge and the N. face, passing over several false tops, till they gained a vast plateau of stones, whence rose the final peak. Gaining the depression at the head of the great couloir on the W. face, † they climbed up easy rocks to the summit (1.40 from the col, some time having been lost in exploration). The view was quite clear as far as regards the whole Ambin group.

Returning to the depression, they descended easy débris slopes, interrupted by several rocky barriers, and gained the broad depression between the peak and the Rochers Cornus (3,127 mètres in the new Italian map) in 35 minutes from the peak. Then came a glissade of 15 minutes down a snow couloir, at the base of which they struck to the right, traversed the slopes nearly at a level, and crossed the stream not far from the Etache huts in 45 minutes more. A descent along an old watercourse, then by a zigzag path down steep grass slopes, brought them in 20 minutes to the main path in the Rochemolle valley. Bad weather now came on again, and a forced march was necessary to reach Bardonnèche (2.20—in all 4¼ hours from the peak).

This peak was first climbed on August 21, 1875, by Signor F. Montaldo, with the two Sibilles, by the way described above as taken on the descent, ‡ which seems also to have been followed in the three subsequent ascents. The name Rognosa (referring to the howling of the wind) being applied to several other peaks in the Cottians, the Bardonnèche name of Punta Lussart § is commonly employed.

Signor Baretta has given the name Col Sommeiller (in honour of the joint inventor of the machine used for piercing the Tunnel, who was a native of Bardonnèche) to the pass, in order to distinguish it from the numerous other Cols d'Ambin which, unfortunately, still appear on the new Italian map. ||

BRIC FROID (3,310 mètres = 10,860 feet, French map. PUNTA RAMIÈRE, 3,302 mètres = 10,734 feet, New Italian map). August 27.

\* Martelli's and Vaccarone's *Guida alle Alpi Occidentali*, p. 369.

† *Ibid.* Illustration opposite p. 372.

‡ *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1876, pp. 20, sqq.; *Per Rupi*, 13 note.

§ *Ibid.* p. 22 note.

|| *Bollettino del C. A. I.* No. 18, 494 note.

—Mr. Coolidge, alone, made the third ascent of this peak—the highest of those immediately surrounding Abriès. Starting from that village (1,552 mètres = 5,092 feet) he gained in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hr. the hamlet of Le Roux and La Montette in  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr. more. Then mounting the fine pastures of the Val Fourane, he climbed up to a lonely basin close under the peak, and, bending to the left, gained the ridge of the Col de Turres at the base of the true S.W. arête of the peak (1.35). Ascending steep broken rocks, he mounted the loose stones of the gently inclined S.W. arête and face, gaining the cairn in 45 minutes (in all 3.35 from Abriès, fast walking, as doubtful weather had delayed the start till 7 A.M.). The view was much interfered with by clouds. In half an hour the descent to the base was effected, and passing along the ridge the actual Col de Turres was gained in 10 minutes more; from this point Abriès was reached in 1.50 (in all, 2.30 from the peak).

The first ascent of this peak was made direct by the S. face on Sept. 6, 1877, by a party consisting of MM. A. Salvador de Quatrefages, G. and M. Chancel, and F. Bessières, with Vêritier of Abriès and Vasserot\* ; the second on August 17, 1879, by Signori A. and C. Fiorio, C. Ratti, F. Pagarone, and U. Casalegno, without guides.† The cards of both parties were found in the cairn.

CIMA DI LOSETTA (3,054 mètres = 10,020 feet, New Italian map). August 28.—The same gentleman, alone, gained in 3.45 from Abriès the level basin at the head of the Guil valley, just before the ascent to the Col de Vallante. Crossing the stream, he ascended grass and rock slopes towards the Col de Soustres, then bearing to the left by easy snow slopes, took to the N.W. arête of the peak, and by shaly slopes gained the cairn (1.15 from the Guil). The view of the N.W. face of the Viso was most superb, there being nothing between, as the peak rises between the Col de Soustres and Col de Vallante: no traveller crossing either pass should omit this ascent. Descending along the W. arête for 10 minutes (passing two ruined huts), he then glissaded down the snow slopes, regained the Guil in 35 minutes from the summit, and reached the inn on the Piano del Re in 2.50 more by way of the Col de la Traversette.

The first travellers' ascent of this peak was made on Sept. 25, 1877, by MM. Paul Guillemain and A. Salvador de Quatrefages, by way of the W. arête: they named it Pointe Joanne, in honour of the then president of the French Alpine Club, and effected a direct descent down a high rocky barrier to the Col de Vallante.‡ The cards, besides, of one French and two Italian parties § were found in the cairn. The ascent is easiest from the head of the Val de Soustres, or from the little pass connecting that glen and the Vallante valley, which is named on the new Italian map Colle di Losetta.

MONTE MEIDASSA (3,105 mètres = 10,188 feet, New Italian map).|| August 29.—The same gentleman, alone, ascended this peak in 2 $\frac{1}{4}$

\* *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1877, pp. 580–2.

† *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1882, p. 190.

‡ *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1877, pp. 240–2.

§ *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1882, p. 193.

|| *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1877, 232; *ibid.* 1882, 195.

hours from the Piano del Re, there being no snow at all on the peak, and 35 minutes only being taken from the time the Traversette path was left just after the little spring.\* The view was most magnificent, ranging from the Matterhorn to the Maritimes, and took in long stretches of the Val Pellice and of the Val di Po. He then effected a descent by the N.W. face, mainly by slopes of loose stones, keeping first to the right, then being forced to the left to turn a rocky barrier, and finally, by traversing along the base of steep snow slopes below the Col del Luissas (between the Meidassa and the Granero), reached a spur on which is a small lake (1 hr. from the top). This dominates two other lakes, and is at the extreme head of the Val Pellice, not far from the Colle Manzol, which connects it with the Comba dei Carbonieri. Descending for some distance towards the Lago Adret del Laus by what appeared to be an ancient moraine (vestiges of a path here and there), he then struck up steep grass slopes to the left, mainly following a small stream which forms a waterfall below, and gained the ridge which forms the E. boundary of the wild cirque up which lies the way to the Col de Seylières (25 minutes). Making his way over glacier-worn rocks, he gained by snow slopes the well-marked depression which forms that pass (1.10—or 2.35 from the peak) which is not marked in the French map, but lies between the Pic Traverse and the point 2,919. After ascending the latter hillock, he returned to the col, and gained Abriès in 3.50, after a long and fatiguing day. Mr. Ball (S.W. Alps, 35) mentions this descent from the Meidassa, but it does not appear that it has previously been made by a traveller.

#### Graian District.

CROCE ROSSA (3,567 mètres = 11,703 feet, New Italian map; 3,564 mètres = 11,692 feet, French map). PUNTA DEL COLLARIN D'ARNAS (3,540 mètres = 11,615 feet, New Italian map. OUILLE D'ARBERON, 3,587 mètres = 11,769 feet, French map). July 26.—Mr. Coolidge and the two Almers, starting from Bessans, reached Avérole in 1.50, and in 2 hrs. more, by grass and stones, the moraine of the Glacier de la Vallette, opposite the Ouille of that name. Crossing it to the west, they reached in 1.15 a shaly ridge coming down from the Arbéron where it is nearly level, and then bore round to the left, so as to gain (20 mins.) the depression between that peak and the Croce Rossa. The ascent of the Croce Rossa was made from this point in 1.05; first by snow and rocks on the north face to the upper plateau of snow (in 25 mins.), and then along the north ridge to the summit, crowned by a great cairn, built by the Piedmontese engineers. The view was fine, specially that of the Bessanese and neighbouring peaks. The return by the same route took 50 mins. The party then ascended the Punta del Collarin d'Arnas by the easy broken rocks of its south ridge, the summit being gained in 50 mins. The descent was made by the shaly ridge already mentioned (a spur of the N.W. arête), the point where it was crossed in the morning being gained in 35 mins. from

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\* Cf. *A. J.* vol. xi. p. 114.

the top, the moraine in 20 mins. more, and Avérole in 1 hr. 20 mins. No difficulties were encountered during the entire expedition.

The former peak was ascended September 4, 1869, by Signor L. Barale,\* by the easy south-west flank, but does not seem to have been before gained by the north ridge. The Italian map is quite accurate in making it higher than the point to the north. The latter (the ordinary Italian name of which is taken from a col at its east base) was first ascended July 14, 1873, by Signor L. Barale, by the south ridge,† and by Signor Costa on July 6, 1876, by the north face,‡ Antonio Castagneri, of Balme, being the leader in all these expeditions.

BESSANESE (UJA BESSANS, 3,632 mètres = 11,917 feet, New Italian map. GRANDES PAREIS, 3,617 mètres = 11,867 feet, French map). July 27.—The same party, starting from Avérole by a rough track, ascended the rocky grass slopes N. of the Glacier d'Arnas, reaching in 2.50 the glacier in the hollow S. of the peak, which is separated from the Glacier d'Arnas by a lofty barrier of rock (this can be ascended at its east end by anyone coming from the Col d'Arnas). Mounting a long central moraine, they gained in 40 minutes by easy broken rocks the south ridge of the peak close to the foot of the final peak. Climbing along these rocks (on which was much snow) they crossed the head of a great couloir (the ridge being rendered rather awkward by a vast accumulation of snow), and thence by easy broken rocks diversified by short snow-slopes gained the great cairn known as the Signal Tonini in an hour (4.30 walking from Avérole). The highest peak is some way farther to the N.; the party walked along the main ridge to the base of the final pinnacle (which is absolutely precipitous on this side), then traversing for a few minutes the rocks of the W. face (above the Glacier d'Entre-deux-Risses), climbed up the very steep but good rocks leading to a notch just south of the summit (very conspicuous from the Signal Tonini and in distant views), i.e. just above the precipice falling towards the Signal Tonini, and gained the latter by the rocky southern ridge (a new direct route), 25 minutes having been required from the Signal Tonini. The view was much interfered with by light mists. The return by the same route to Signal Tonini took 20 minutes, whence 35 minutes were required to reach the ridge at the base of the peak, and 1.50 more to Avérole (in all 2.25 from the Signal Tonini). The weather being uncertain, a good pace was kept up all day. With less snow the difficulties would be reduced to a minimum.

On August 1, 1857, Signor Tonini § made the first ascent of the lower point (3,591 mètres = 11,781 feet), but the highest point was not gained till, on July 26, 1873, Signor M. Baretto forced his way thither, passing along the W. face till a little beyond the highest peak, then climbing to the northern ridge, and returning 50 mètres along

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\* *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1870, pp. 115-7. Signor Barale found the cairn on top, and supposes that it was built by Signor Tonini, Director of the Cadastral Survey.

† *Ibid.* 1874, p. 273.

‡ *Ibid.* 1877, p. 169.

§ *Ibid.* 1867, p. 289 n.

it to the summit.\* On July 24, 1875, Signor A. Balduino, with A. Castagneri, climbed by a long and dangerous couloir on the great E. face (so well seen from Balme) to the S. ridge at the foot of the first peak, and gained the highest point by Signor Baretti's route.†

Since that time several ascents as far as the Signal Tonini ‡ have been made, but apparently not more than two or three parties have attained the highest pinnacle, so that the ascent above described is probably the fifth.

When the snow is in good condition it would be best to ascend from the little glacier to the base of the first peak by the broad snow-couloir of which mention has been made. On the French side the Bessanese is a great rock-wall, whence the name on the French map. In all views the two peaks and the notch are clearly seen. The mountain is best known by the name of *La Bessanese*.

LEVANNA ORIENTALE (3,555 mètres = 11,662 feet, New Italian Survey; 3,564 mètres = 11,692 feet, French map). August 11.—The same party having gained the summit of this peak in 5½ hours from Bonneval, by way of the Col Perduto and the N. ridge (1.10 from the bergschrund), proceeded a short distance along the S. ridge (till just before two great rock-pinnacles), then struck down the E. face, and following the N. and E. edges of a snowfield (well seen from below), descended by very steep but good rocks to the glacier at the foot of the peak, which was gained in 1½ hour from the summit. This descent is very steep, and from below it was hard to make out the line taken down the rocks. Bearing to the right the party then rejoined the route from the Col de Girard, and gained Forno by a long and fatiguing descent (4¼ hrs. from the top), crossing next day to Balme by the easy pass (N. of the Uja di Mondrone) named Ghicet d'Ala on the Piedmontese map (3.50 up, 2.40 down).§ This peak was first ascended September 25, 1874, by Lord Wentworth, direct from Ceresole, and has also been reached by the S. ridge from the Col de Girard by Signor L. Vaccarone on July 12, 1875.¶

UJA DI CIAMARELLA (3,676 mètres = 12,061 feet, New Italian Survey). COLLE DELLA CIAMARELLA. August 13.—The same party, starting from Balme, ascended this peak by the usual way, viâ the Piano della Mussa, the Naressa pastures, the Ciamarella glacier, and the S.W. face and W. ridge, not the slightest difficulty being encountered (5¼ hrs. walking). As the peak is the second in height of the Southern Graians, and as the day was perfect, the view gained was most extensive and magnificent, some ranges beyond the Bernina, a bit of a lake (either Annecy or Geneva), and the Mont Clapier in the Maritime Alps being the most distant points seen in various directions. Having enjoyed this view for 2½ hours, the party then descended by the W. ridge (halting to watch numerous chamois climb up the N. face) to the Piccola Ciamarella (3,505 m. on the French map), traversing the

\* *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1874, pp. 201 sqq. † *Ibid.* 1875, p. 338.

‡ *Ibid.* 1877, p. 169; *Rivista Alpina Italiana*, 1883, pp. 80-1.

§ See *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1867, 284.

¶ *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1876, pp. 432 sqq.; *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 356.

S. face of which they reached the Colle della Ciamarella (50 minutes from the peak). Descending a short way by the rocks, they then cut across the steep slope of hard snow immediately below the col, bore to the right, zigzagged amongst some séracs, and gained by glassades the level of the Glacier des Evettes (40 minutes from the col), whence the Col des Evettes was reached in 55 mins., and Bonneval in 1½ hr. more (3.55 from the summit). The col was first crossed in July 1875, by Signor A. E. Martelli.\* It is believed that this is the first time that the peak has been crossed in one day from village to village, the first time that it has been ascended from Balme by an English party, and the first time that a descent has been made direct from the summit to the col.† The expedition is a beautiful and easy one, and is warmly recommended.

LEVANNA CENTRALE FROM CERESOLE (3,619 mètres = 11,874 feet, New Italian Survey; 3,640 mètres = 11,943 feet, French map). August 17.—The same party, starting from a hut on the Levanna Alp (1¼ hr. from Ceresole), made a long traverse round the head of the valley, and gained in 2 hrs. the Colle di Nel of the Piedmontese map. Traversing snow slopes and a glacier to the left, they gained the glacier at the foot of the Levanna Centrale by a small couloir and rocks to right of it (1.10 from Colle di Nel). Much time was lost in reconnoitring, the rocks on the N. face of the peak being glazed and very steep. Finally they selected the westernmost of the two rocky ridges which descend from the highest peak, and crossed the bergschrund with considerable difficulty, but the rocks when gained (1½ hr. from time glacier was reached) were so formidable by reason of the thick coating of snow and ice that it was resolved to cut across the great snow-slope immediately to the north. This took 50 minutes, and a comparatively easy rocky ridge (not quite covered with snow or ice) was gained, by climbing up which the party gained in about an hour the depression between the western and central Levannas. An hour more along the rather difficult N.W. ridge led them to the top of the westernmost of the two pinnacles of equal height which form the summit of the Levanna Centrale (in all 7 hours from the hut, of which probably 2 would have been saved if the ridge actually climbed had been attacked at once). In the cairn were found the cards of Messrs. Heelis and Yeld (August 12, 1878),‡ and of Signor Simonetti (August 10, 1881). The party descended to Bonneval in 3 hours' very fast walking (to get in before dark), by the easy ordinary route down the S.W. face. The peak has been at least twice previously reached by the northern face, by Signor Simonetti, with Blanchetti of Ceresole, and two days later by the Signori Sella, with J. B. Maquig-

\* *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1876, p. 321.

† Mr. Yeld has informed the editor that his ascent in 1878 was made from the Colle Tonini by the Forno Glacier de Séa, and *not*, as was supposed, by the Colle della Ciamarella (*A. J.* ix. 99, 474): this route is probably the same as that taken by MM. Carbonnier and Rabot in 1879 (*Annuaire du C. A. F.* vi. 149-153). On August 13, 1881, the four Signori Sella with Maquignaz and Bich ascended the peak from the Col (*Bollett. del C. A. I.* 1881, p. 653).

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. pp. 169, 477.

naz and Bich on August 10, 1881, the route taken not being precisely the same in each case.\*

SIGNAL DE MÉANMARTIN (3,326 mètres = 10,913 feet). POINTE DE MÉANMARTIN (3,337 mètres = 10,949 feet). August 18.—The same party, starting from Bonneval, took the left-hand path where the Iseran path goes to the right, and mounting steep pastures, passed by the huts of Sur le Clos, and gained the right bank of the Glacier des Roches near the point 2789 (2.10 from Bonneval). Crossing it, and climbing easy rocks to the snowy N. ridge of the Signal (50 minutes), they walked up shale and snow slopes to the great cairn in 20 minutes (3.20 walking, in all). The view from this point is very fine, but perhaps even finer from the higher Pointe, which was gained by the snowy W. arête and rocky W. face in 25 minutes, the whole of the Northern, Southern, and Western Graians being seen, besides some of the Zermatt and of the Ambin peaks. By the E. ridge and S. face, a point near the Col de Méanmartin (Piedmontese and Mr. Nichols' maps) was gained; then by snow slopes to the right over steep grass slopes (30 min. from peak), and mainly by the snow-covered stream and the rugged left bank, the level of 'Le Vallon' was reached in 55 mins. from the peak, the view, looking back, resembling that of a cirque in the Pyrenees. In 25 minutes more the Pont du Vallon and huts were attained, whence, by a pleasant path across pastures by many huts and deserted copper mines, the village of Bessans was attained (1.05 from the huts—2.25 from the Pointe).

The Signal was ascended from Bonneval (by way of the Glacier des Roches and E. arête) by MM. Paul Devot and Henri Ferrand on August 6, 1877, M. Devot then making the first ascent of the Pointe, and the whole party descending to Bessans.† The ascent is recommended to future visitors of the district as a pleasant excursion for an off-day, and a variation on the dull char road between Bonneval and Bessans.

COLLARIN ARNAS (c. 2,750 mètres = 8,923 feet).‡ August 20.—Mr. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, starting from Balme, went by way of the Piano della Mussa to the Rocca Venoni (1.20), and in 1.40 more, passing over the Naressa pastures, and aiming at a point on the left-hand ridge to the right of a sharp rock peak, reached the ridge and descended into a hollow, where is the hut known as Crot del Ciaussiné, built by the Italian Alpine Club. Passing by the Lago d'Arnas, and mounting broken rocks and snow slopes (passing close under the Col d'Arnas), the cairn on the pass was gained (55 minutes from the hut—3.55 from Balme). The view of the Croce Rossa, Ciamarella, Bessanese, Grand Paradis, and Monte Rosa from this point is very beautiful. In 10 minutes by snow slopes the N.E. end of the great frozen Lago della Rossa was reached. A descent down a rocky barrier and a glissade led them to an upland plain (where the Roman altar, now in the church at Usseglio,

\* *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1881, p. 653, 1882, 199–202; *Rivista Alpina Italiana*, 1882, p. 58.

† *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xiii. pp. 174–9. See also *Annuaire du C. A. F.* vol. vi. p. 91.

‡ See *Bollett. del C. A. I.* 1874, p. 205.

was discovered some years ago), the hut at its further end being gained in half an hour from the lake. Crossing to the right bank of the torrent at the Lago Dietro la Torre (25 mins.), a very steep and fatiguing path down scanty pastures and rocky barriers led them in 55 minutes to the Gias Vacche, whence a stony track by the right bank of the torrent, becoming more and more picturesque every step, led them to Usseglio (Frazione Cortevicchio) in 1.20 (3.20 from pass). This pass is by far the most interesting way from Balme to Usseglio, and the views all along are very striking. It is also called Colla della Rossa.

NOUMENON, or NOMENON (3,488 mètres = 11,443 feet, New Survey, called by the natives *La Grande Point*). August 7.—Mr. G. Yeld, with Henri Séraphin of Courmayeur and Ottavo Bougiot of Vièyes (as porter), ascended this fine peak from Vièyes. They followed the ordinary route to the châteaux of Noumenon, and then, turning to the right, gained the col between the Noumenon and its northern neighbour, the *Mont Favret* (3,173 mètres = 10,409 feet, New Survey, the *Monte Ruje* of the Panorama from the Cima della Rolei). This col is called by the people of Vièyes *Col de Mesoncles* (Colle Charbonnière of New Survey), whilst the pass between the Noumenon and the Grivola, which on the A. C. map and the New Survey bears the name *Col de Mesoncles*, is locally known as the *Col de Belleface*. The party then ascended by the ridge which runs down to the col. No difficulties were encountered, but much snow made the climb longer than it would otherwise have been. The actual summit was reached without trouble by a chimney in the rock. View very fine, commanding the Alps from Monte Rosa to Mont Blanc. The Grand Paradis is also well seen, as the Noumenon stands out a little to the west of the Grivola, whose great mass is in itself a splendid spectacle. The descent was effected, partly in a violent snow-storm, by crossing gaps in two arêtes (one leading down to the col between the Noumenon and the Grivola, the other lying more to the north-east), and then by getting down the steep face which is opposite the Col de Trajo to the right of the magnificent wall of red rock (perfectly sheer), which is the most conspicuous feature on this side of the Noumenon. Considerable time was spent in finding the way. The party descended into the wild combe under the Grivola, a little above the sleeping-place\* of Messrs. Yeld and Baker's party in 1881. The route followed when seen from a distance some days later seemed quite impossible, and afforded an interesting climb. The party descended to Vièyes in the evening. Approximate times—from 7 to 8 hours up; about 7 hours down by the route followed.

The first and apparently only previous ascent was made by Signor F. Montaldo.

'Ottavo Bougiot can be strongly recommended. He is an excellent rock-climber and very willing.'

G. Y.

PUNTA ROL (3,226 mètres = 10,582 feet, New Survey). COL DE LA MURAILLE ROUGE. PUNTA FORCHES (3,371 mètres = 11,060 feet, New

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 21.

Survey). August 11.—The same party with Joseph Jantet of Epinel, near Cogne (in place of O. Bougiot), left the châteaux of Bardonney, a little under 3 hours from Cogne, where the chief herdsman was most hospitable, at 3.0 a.m. They reached the ridge to the right of the Col de Bardonney, a little above the col, at 5.10, and then, mainly by the ridge, mounted the peak which occupies the same position on the west of the col as the Torre di Lavina does on the east (the Punta Rol of the New Survey). This peak they (wrongly) took to be the Grande Arolla, by which name Signor Novarese calls the peak ascended by him in 1879. The top, where they found what seemed to be the ruins of a stone man (probably built on August 2, 1881, by Signor Vaccarone's party\*), was reached in about 1 hr. 45 min. actual walking from the time they struck the ridge. View good. In Dr. M. Baretto's sketch map attached to his 'Studii sul Gruppo del Gran Paradiso' and in the A. C. map the Grande Arolla is represented with its ridge running down to the Col de Bardonney. This would appear to be an error. The Grande Arolla is separated from the peak first ascended by a well-marked col. The party left the top of the Punta at 9.23, and went down to the glacier immediately under it on the Cogne side, *vid* a false col, by rocks. This is the glacier called by Dr. Baretto *Gh. della Comba della Grand' Arolla (Gh. di Sengie* of New Survey). They then turned up to the col between the Punta and the real Grande Arolla, which was reached at 10.16. As this col lies at the foot of a great precipice of red rock it may be called, if it has not already a name, *Col de la Muraille Rouge*. This pass was charming, having a model bergschrund and snow-bridge and a steep snow-couloir on the Forzo side. At 10.55, going easily, they reached the Grande Arolla, and found in the cairn the card of Signor Novarese, who made the first ascent by the same glacier on August 20, 1879, descending on the Forzo side.† View very fine, including part of the valley above Cogne, with Champlong and the river, and very interesting topographically. The range which separates the Valeiglie from the Val Nontey was swept from end to end. They left the top at 12.15, descended very nearly to the col, then by the snow-couloir on the Forzo side (in part), and afterwards traversed the snow to the ridge above the Col de Bardonney, regaining the châteaux at 3.13 p.m., botanising *en route*.

FENÊTRE DE DZASSET (about 11,900 feet estimate ‡). August 14.—The same party made this new pass the most direct from the Val Nontey to Pont in Val Savaranche. They left the Châlet de l'Herbetet at 3.15 a.m., followed the path to the Col de l'Herbetet for some distance, and then crossed the ridge descending from the Grande Serre (the Pointe de l'Herbetet of the A. C. map) to the Dzasset, or Tzasset, glacier. They then walked up this glacier, which was very beautiful, keeping pretty close to the ridge of the Grande

\* *Bollett. del C. A. I.* 1881, p. 464.

† *Bollett. del C. A. I.* 1880, p. 163: *Rivista Alpina Italiana*, 1882, p. 9.

‡ The Fenêtre is considerably higher than the Col Bonney, which Dr. Baretto estimates at 3,619 mètres.

Serre on their right, and passing the Col Bonney, so named by Dr. Baretta in his ascent of the Punta Budden in 1875,\* and first crossed by Mr. Pendlebury's party from Val Savaranche to Cogne in 1876 † (Mr. Pendlebury gave to it the name Col de Montandayné), and the Punta Budden, mounted without any difficulty to a window in the ridge between the Punta Budden and the next peak to the south, apparently the Becca de Montandayné. The col was afterwards seen by the party from the Croix d'Aroletta, when the name Fenêtre de Dzasset suggested itself as most appropriate. View good, the Noumenon being particularly striking. Though the ascent had been quite easy, the descent on the Savaranche side was decidedly the reverse. The rocks were very steep, and, though firm and affording good hold to the feet, were covered with a thin coating of ice. The party, having worked at first to the right, were obliged to make a traverse to the left again to avoid the worst place; they then again turned to the right, and reached a sort of arête which runs down from the Punta Budden. After the first few hundred feet the character of the rocks completely changed. They became comparatively easy but very rotten. Falls of stones appeared to be not uncommon, though none fell while the party were descending; but large rocks here and there afforded pretty adequate shelter, and no serious risk was run. The bergschrund at the foot was crossed without trouble. On the way down fine views of the Dauphiné and Maurienne mountains were enjoyed. The party then turning to the right crossed a col in the ridge which bounds the Glacier de Montandayné on that side, descended the snow-slopes (singularly grand this year, owing to the *mamelons* of snow piled up by the wind) of the glacier, called by Dr. Baretta *Gh. della Luvionne*, mounted to what was taken to be the Col de l'Herbetet, but proved to be a gap in a shoulder of the Grande Serre, made a traverse across the glacier on the other side, and finally reached the Col de l'Herbetet. This is apparently the route followed by parties descending the Grand Paradis on the Val Savaranche side, and returning to Cogne the same day. They descended to Cogne. The movements of a herd of forty chamois on the Glacier della Luvionne were well seen from the Col de l'Herbetet. This col, as the party found it, should take rank among the more difficult passes of the Eastern Graians.

CIME DE ROISEBANQUE (10,335 feet, A. C. map). M. ROSA DEI BANCHI (3,164 mètres=10,381 feet, new map). MONTE DELLA BALMA or MONTBRIAN (3,188 mètres=10,459 feet. Vaccarone and Nigra). August 16. —The same party ascended this peak in about 6 hours from Cogne. The walk is a beautiful one. They followed the mule track to Chavanis, and then turning to the right gained a large glacier, apparently the Gl. de Costassa. They then mounted to the ridge overlooking the Val Campiglia for the sake of the lovely view, and worked towards the east, sometimes on the ridge, sometimes on the steep slopes of the Glacier della Roisebanque, or Miserin. On reaching the foot of the peak they traversed the face above the Val Campiglia and completed the ascent, which presented no difficulties by the S. arête.

\* *Per Rupi e Ghiacci*, p. 80.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 77.

On the summit was a large cairn erected by the Italian engineers. The view was extensive and most interesting, and included a great part of the plain of Italy. One town, supposed to be Ivrea, was very clearly seen. An hour and a quarter was spent on the summit. They descended to the Colle della Balma (about 3,000 mètres = 9,842 feet), where the baggage had been left, in 40 min. easy going. Thence they went down to Ronco in about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours' actual walking. The first part of the descent was steep though not difficult, and was made by a sort of arête: before the first châlet was reached it was necessary to turn considerably to the left, where a rough goat-track was found. The route led past the chapel of San Besso, whose fête is much frequented by the people of Cogne. The scenery of the Val Campiglia cannot be too highly praised. This expedition is most strongly to be recommended. As a route from Cogne to Ronco the time required is reasonable—about 10 hours' actual walking—while the scenery is far finer than that of the Col de Bardonney, or even the Torre di Lavina. As a day's walk from Cogne it would be difficult to find an excursion which better rewards the traveller. It may be added that the mountain is particularly rich in flowers.

LA TRESSENTA (3,690 mètres = 12,106 feet, Panorama from the Cima della Rolei; 3,609 mètres = 11,840 feet, New Survey). BOCCHETTA DEL GOJ. August 19.—The same party without Jantet ascended this fine peak from the Stabilimento of Ceresole. Mounting the Vallone del Roc they reached the Glacier del Broglio, and turning to the right gained the Colle della Torre (3,187 mètres = 10,456 feet). They then descended a little, traversed the snow-slopes of the Glacier di Ciamoseretto under the Charforon to the Col du Mont Corvé (3,351 mètres = 10,994 feet), and, without descending to the glacier of Mont Corvé, climbed quite easily to the top of the Tresenta by the face above that col. View splendid and most interesting. The Pic de la Lune, or Pointe de Ceresole, Col Chamonin, Cresta Gastaldi, and the Noaschetta ascent of the Grand Paradis were well studied. The last seems very risky, being commanded by crumbling rock-towers and séracs. The first ascent was made in 1878 (?), since which time the mountain has been twice climbed. In the descent (probably new) the party followed the snow-ridge which runs down to the Col du Grand Paradis to within a few feet of the actual pass, and then traversed the Glacier di Noaschetta under the Tresenta to a notch in the S.E. ridge. The descent (in a mist which came on suddenly) not seeming practicable, they ascended a little and traversed the Glacier del Goj to another opening in the ridge. After working first a long way to the right, then back to the left, and then again a little to the right, they effected the descent of the wall of the ridge, called on the new map *Costa Parasseyus*, the last part by a narrow snow-couloir. The King's hunting path in the Val Ciamoseretto was gained in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours from the summit, considerable time being lost owing to the mist. There is a passage from the Glacier del Goj to the Val Ciamoseretto, marked on Dr. Baretto's sketch map under the name *Bocchetta del Gias*, but this is considerably farther off the Tresenta than the descent followed. If the passage be thought worthy of a name it might be called *Bocchetta del Goj*. The

party then descended the Val Ciamoseretto as far as the junction with the path that winds round the mountain-side to the Vallone del Roc, then, following this latter track, rejoined their morning's route, and so regained Ceresole. Approximate times—ascend 8 hours, descent 6½ hours. This expedition, though long, is most interesting as explaining the topography of the mountains on the south side of the Grand Paradis. It may be mentioned here that the C. A. I. intend building a large cabane above the chalet of Mont Corvé, to facilitate the ascent of the Grand Paradis and its neighbours; from this cabane the ascent of the Tresenta could be effected in very much less time than from the Stabilimento.

#### Mont Blanc District.

SECOND PEAK OF THE AIGUILLE DU MIDI. *June 26.*—Mr. C. D. Cunningham, accompanied by Emile Rey and a porter, made the first ascent of this point. Having slept at the Pierre Pointue the party started at 2.30 A.M., and ascending by the rocks which form the north-westerly buttress of the Aiguille du Midi, struck the large couloir running up between the two peaks at 8 o'clock. From this point to the well-marked col between the two peaks Rey had to cut steps (2 hrs. 10 min.). The rocks forming the second peak were found to be difficult, three quarters of an hour being spent in mounting them from the col. The summit was gained at 11, and the Montanvert, by the Glacier du Géant, by 6 o'clock.

LES PÉRIADES FROM THE GLACIER DU MONT MALLET. *July 28.*—The same party made this ascent. Starting from the Montanvert at 3 A.M. they arrived at the rocks at the base of the peak at 7. The ascent of these was extremely easy, with the exception of the last fifty feet, and occupied 3 hours. The Montanvert was reached at 2 o'clock. The Périades were ascended for the first time, on the previous day, from the Glacier du Géant, by M. Paul Perret and his guides.

MONT BLANC DU TACUL (4,249 mètres = 13,941 feet). *August 13.*—Mr. C. D. Cunningham, accompanied by Emile Rey, Ed. Cupelin, and Michel Savioz, ascended this peak. Having slept at the cabane on the Col du Géant they started at 3.30 and arrived at the foot of the peak at 6 A.M. The summit was reached at 8.15. During the last two hours a good deal of step-cutting had to be done, and the party experienced considerable difficulty in crossing the snow bridges. From the summit of Mont Blanc du Tacul the party gained the Mont Maudit in 2 hours. The return to Chamonix was made by the Corridor and the Grands Mulets. The Tacul was apparently ascended on July 31, 1855, by Sir J. H. Ramsay's party,\* though this may mean that he only gained the ridge and not its highest point; † but this latter point is expressly stated to have been reached by one of the members of Messrs. Hudson and Kennedy's party on August 7, 1855. ‡ On the whole question see Durier's 'Mont Blanc,' 2nd edition, 317–8.

\* *A. J.* vol. viii. 'Modern Mountaineering,' p. 14. † *A. J.* vol. ix. p. 105.

‡ *Where there's a Will there's a Way* (1856), p. 16.

*Monte Rosa District.*

KIENHORN or STRAHLBETT (3,755 mètres = 12,320 feet). *July 25.*—A party, consisting of two English ladies, Rev. C. J. Ord, Rev. F. Baylis, and Mr. W. E. Utterson-Kelso, with Peter Knubel, Adolf and Xavier Andermatten, J. M. Blumenthal, and A. Gentinetta, made the first ascent of this peak. Starting from Randa, they passed by the usual gîte for the Täschhorn and gained the Kien gletscher, up which they went under the rocks of the peak, rather to the N. of a long snow arête, which culminates in the desired summit. Thence, by cutting no less than 1,150 steps on the slope leading up to the arête (for which A. Andermatten deserves great credit), the top was gained (8.35 from Randa, including halts). The rocky ridge running up towards the Täschhorn seemed to be impracticable. The view was very fine. In half an hour the party regained the glacier, and Randa 3.25 later (including halts). The snow on the arête was in excellent condition. The ladies of the party had previously made an unsuccessful attempt on the peak from the Täsch valley.

LAQUINHORN FROM LAQUINJOCH (13,323 feet). *August 11.*—Mr. Utterson-Kelso, and two English ladies, guided by Peter Knubel, J. M. Blumenthal, and J. P. Zurbrücken, made this ascent, it is believed, for the first time on record. The arête was mainly followed, the rocks being often very steep and sometimes covered with soft snow. The ascent from the pass took 5½ hours (including halts). The return was made by the ordinary route.

TÄSCHHORN (14,757 feet) FROM THE S.E. *August 30.*—Mrs. E. P. Jackson, with Aloys Pollinger and M. Truffer as guides, ascended the Täschhorn from Fee by a route that does not appear to have been previously taken. Leaving the hôtel at 1.30 A.M. they followed the usual way for the Mischabel Joch to within an hour below the top of the pass; here turning to the right towards the south-eastern side of the mountain they ascended the glacier to a ridge of rock leading up towards the S. arête. These rocks at first were easy and good; afterwards they became much steeper and more broken, and near the top gradually disappeared in steep slopes of snow. The S. arête was struck at 10.45 A.M., close to the base of the final peak, and the summit gained half an hour later. The descent was made to Randa by the ordinary route. This route does not in any place come near that taken in 1876 by Messrs. Watson and Wethered, and joins that followed by Mr. J. Jackson at the point where the S. arête is struck, after all the real work is done.

STRAHLHORN BY THE S.E. FACE (13,759 feet). *September 11.*—Mr. W. F. Donkin, with the guides Basil Andermatten of Stalden and his brother, Josef Marie, ascended the Strahlhorn by the S.E. rock face. Leaving Zermatt at 3.50 A.M. with the intention of crossing to Mattmark and making the ascent next day, they reached the Schwarzberg Weisssthor at 10, and after an inspection of the mountain with the telescope decided to try it at once. They descended the snow slopes of the Schwarzberg glacier for about 40 minutes, making for the base of the Strahlhorn, and then climbed firm and easy rocks bearing to the

right, and soon reached the upper narrow end of the conspicuous snow slope which runs down eastwards and joins the glacier below. Crossing this, they were at the foot of the cliffs which apparently rise directly to the summit. Towards the right these form a magnificent wall, quite perpendicular; directly overhead they are very steep, but appeared assailable. Climbing upwards and bearing to the left, the party got up a short but difficult couloir nearly blocked with masses of icicles, and over some sloping rocks to the left covered with snow; this was the most difficult part of the climb. They were scarcely out of the couloir when a mass of icicles from far above came down it in a torrent of broken ice. Traversing upwards to the right, so as to get more under shelter of the cliffs, they climbed steep but pretty firm rocks for some way, then up a narrow but easy couloir, and above that up a succession of steep buttresses of very broken but firm rocks, making for the right-hand end of a snow arête which abuts on the south side of the rocks they were climbing, and which is seen on the sky line during the whole of the ascent. Cutting through the cornice the party got over on to the gentle snow slope which runs up from the direction of the Weissthorn, and turning to the right followed what was no doubt the route taken by Messrs. Boyson and Penfold in 1872 ('Alpine Journal,' vi. 296). It led up easy rocks to a short and narrow snow arête, then up a rock buttress to the final snow arête of the peak, which was not reached till 5 P.M., the ascent from the glacier having occupied 6 hours. The weather had changed, and the last two hours of the ascent were made in fog and falling snow. The change in the wind, which had been north for some days, doubtless caused the fall of icicles mentioned above; several other similar falls of ice occurred during the day, but no falling stones were seen. Leaving the summit immediately, the party had some difficulty in finding the Adler pass on account of the fog; but steering by the help of an echo from the Rimpfischhorn they came pretty straight upon it, and got down to the moraine of the Findelen glacier before nightfall, reaching Zermatt by moonlight at 10.40 P.M. The climb, which would be better taken from Mattmark, is highly recommended. There is a good choice of routes on the face, the one followed being probably neither the best nor easiest, though there appears to be no danger from falling stones.

#### *Bernese Oberland.*

GROSS SCHRECKHORN BY THE N.W. ARÊTE. *August 7.*—Messrs. J. Stafford Anderson and G. P. Baker, with Ulrich Almer and Aloys Pollinger, starting from the Schwarzenegg hut at 3.30 A.M., cut up the centre of the great couloir, and gained its summit at 5.40. Steering N.W. for 15 minutes, then N.E., they reached the bergschrund (20 minutes' halt), and by means of a prominent rocky rib gained the crest of the ridge between the Gross and Klein Schreckhorn at 7.30. Thence they climbed along the crest of the great N.W. arête, being now and then forced on to its N.E. face. The summit was gained at 10.40 in misty and thickening weather, and the descent (10.50–1.35) effected by the ordinary route in the midst of a blinding storm of hail, snow, and sleet. The rocks of the N.W. arête were very steep, but, with

the exception of two or three bad places, no great difficulties were encountered. In fine weather the new route would be comparatively easy and quite short.

*Adula District.*

LENTAHORN (10,620 feet). *August 29.*—Mr. M. Holzmann, with Hann Giger, of Vals Platz, left Zervreila at 4.30 A.M., crossed at the ampertsch Alp to the right bank of the Rhine, went up the Lenta valley along the stream for  $\frac{1}{2}$  hr., and then ascended towards the N.W. branch of the Güfer glacier. At the S. base of the Furketlihorn they turned S., passed under the E. face of the Lenta-Schwarzhorn, walked up to the crest of the ridge on their right, and, following it, arrived on the summit of the Lentahorn at 8.20. They found no traces of a previous ascent, and no record of one seems to exist. They descended to the Güfer glacier, and reascending reached in 45 mins. the Güferhorn (11,132 feet). Thence, instead of taking the usual route towards the Lenta Lücke, they descended in a S.E. direction the rocks and the small glacier hanging over the N. side of the Rheinwald Firn, passed along the S. slope of the Salahorn to the Platten Schlucht, and returned down the Kanal glacier and Kanal valley to Zervreila. The whole expedition, exclusive of halts, took only 7 hrs. 25 mins.

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Among the new expeditions made by non-members of the Club several deserve notice.

On August 22 M.M. François Arnollet and Greyfié de Bellecombe, with the two Amiez of Pralognan, ascended the second peak (3,806 mètres) of the Grande Casse (the monarch of the Tarentaise Alps) by the rocks of the southern face above the Lac Rond. The route is described as difficult and dangerous. The lateness of the hour and the bad condition of the snow prevented the party from following the easy ordinary route from the second to the highest peak.

On August 21 M. Charles Rabot made the first ascent of the true highest peak of Lapland, Kebneknaisse (2,160 mètres), the summit consisting of a fine snow corniche compared to that on the Moming Pass. The ascent was made in 4.55 from the bivouac by a great glacier, and a couloir which led the party to the W. ridge of the peak and so to the top. The descent was made by the S. slope, which was very steep and took 4.50. To the N. the peak is precipitous. The Alpine character of these regions is described as being very marked.

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## ALPINE NOTES.

WINTER MEETING AND DINNER.—The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at 8.30 P.M. on Tuesday, December 18. The Picture Exhibition and Winter Dinner will be held at Willis' Rooms on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, December 19.

MOUNTAINEERING IN THE HIMALAYAS.—The following extracts from Mr. Graham's letters, sent us for publication by the friend to whom they