

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

[The expeditions recorded in the following pages are believed not to have been previously accomplished by English mountaineers, or by foreign members of the Alpine Club, or noticed in this Journal. In the cases where foreign climbers—not being members of the Club—had preceded the writers, reference has, as far as possible, been made to the original accounts.]

Caucasus.

ADAI CHOCH (c. 15,244 feet). *July 24.*—M. Maurice de Déchy, with Alexander Burgener and P. J. Ruppen, of Saas, made the first ascent of this peak, one of the five highest measured peaks in this chain. Some details will be found at p. 91, and an engraving of the S. face in Mr. Freshfield's 'Central Caucasus,' p. 237. A full account of the ascent will shortly be published in this Journal.

Cottian District.

ROCHE TAILLANTE (3,200 mètres = 10,499 feet). *August 15.*—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge with young Christian Almer, starting from Abriès, mounted the valley of the Guil to La Chalp (1.25), and thence by a pretty path over pastures and through woods gained the Lac Egourgéou (1.55). Then bearing to the left up grass slopes and rocks they reached a great notch in the eastern buttress of the peak, overlooking the Lac Foréant (45 m.). Thence the highest point was climbed in 55 mins. by débris between slabs of smooth slate. A wonderful view of the Italian plains and of Turin was obtained. There are three other cairns on the ridge stretching south from the summit. The farthest of these was gained in 1.15 (back in 1 hr.), by a difficult and unpleasant climb along a narrow shattered slate ridge and its S.E. side. Half an hour sufficed to regain the great notch; descending to the base of the buttress they rounded it, passed the Lac Foréant, gained the Col Vieux * (1 hr.), and the Refuge Agnel in 20 mins. more (1.50 from the peak). The peak was first ascended on September 7, 1876, by M. Paul Guillemain, with Vêritier of Abriès, from the same side, by a route slightly differing from that described above.†

L'AIGUILLETTE (3,286 mètres = 10,781 feet, French map. 3,297 mètres = 10,817 feet, New Italian Survey). VISO DI VALLANTE (VISOLET, 3,030 mètres = 9,941 feet, of the French map. PUNTA GASTALDI, 3,269 mètres = 10,726 feet, of the New Italian Survey). *August 16.*—The same party, starting from the Refuge Agnel, reached the Col Vieux in half an hour, and traversed rocky slopes to the Brèche de Ruine (2,850 mètres of the French map) in half an hour more. Descending for 5 mins. they then bore to the left by débris, passed the Lac de Ruines (not marked on the map), and took to a sheep-track, by which they mounted to the right above a steep rock-wall, through a gap in which they traversed to the frontier ridge to the east of a peak, which

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. 352.

† *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1876, pp. 270-3.

is probably the Pic Ast of the French map (50 ms.). They then followed the frontier ridge, passing over various summits, and gained the great cairn on the Aiguillette in 55 mins. more (2.50 from the Refuge). The view extended from the Maritimes to Mont Blanc and Monte Rosa, but was specially fine in the direction of the Viso. The cairn was built by the engineers (French or Italian) engaged in surveying the district; the peak was also climbed on September 1, 1878, by MM. P. Guillemain and Salvador de Quatrefages with Emile Pic.*

Walking along the eastern ridge of the peak for 15 mins. the party left it at a snow cornice, and descended by débris and rocks towards the Val de Soustres, then traversed to the left for a considerable distance, and took to a sheep-track which finally landed them on the Col de Soustres (1.20). Descending on the Italian side for 10 mins., they followed another track which brought them (35 mins.) to the Colle di Losetta of the new Italian map. A troublesome descent down steep rocks took them in 40 mins. to the Colle di Vallante. From this point they then made the first ascent of the peak commonly called Viso di Vallante, but which the maps have named differently. Making for a snowy shoulder seen from below, they soon after gained the frontier ridge at the foot of the peak (35 mins.). Climbing along the western face, and keeping below some steep reddish pinnacles, they finally bore to the right and gained the highest point (50 mins.—1.25 from the Colle di Vallante), some difficulties having been encountered, but the rocks being firm and more broken than they appeared from below. The view of the Viso was very striking. By comparison with the Visolotto, the height given to the peak by the Italian map seems nearest the truth. No signs of man were found on the summit. The highest point is wholly Italian. A lower spur of the peak marks the spot where the French frontier joins the main ridge. The descent (made very leisurely) took 1.05 mins., and in 1.05 more the Refuge des Lyonnais was gained, after a long and fatiguing day.

MONTE GRANERO (3,170 mètres = 10,401 feet, New Italian map).
August 17.—The same party, starting from the Refuge des Lyonnais, gained the Col de la Traversette in 1.40, and, bearing to the left (in 45 mins.), the Colle del Luissas, † between the Meidassa and the desired peak. Thence the Granero was climbed in 50 mins. by the ridge and face to the (proper) right of the great snow couloir, which descends towards the Val Pellice. The highest peak is some way from the frontier, as in the case of the Viso di Vallante. The first ascent was made on August 23, 1879, by an Italian party, without guides, consisting of Signori Ratti, Fiorio, Pagnone, by the eastern face; ‡ the second on August 6, 1880, by Signor Simonetti, the officer charged with the new survey of the Viso district, who descended by the south side. The great cairn was built by the first party. The ascent, described above, seems to be the third. In less cloudy weather the view of the Viso group must be very striking. Crossing over to a lower point more

* *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1878, 53–64.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 353.

‡ *Bollettino del C. A. I.* 1882, pp. 195–7.

to the north, the party descended to the Col de Luissas by the rock, ridge on the left of the great snow couloir, and traversed this at its base to the col, which was reached in 40 mins. easy going from the top. France was regained by the fifteenth-century tunnel, and Abriès reached the same evening.

GRAND GLAYZA (3,286 mètres = 10,781 feet). *August 19.*—The same party having reached the Col de Malrif in 3.25 from Abriès, walked along the ridge to the north, and without the slightest difficulty gained the peak in 55 mins. It commands a most magnificent view of the South-Western Alps, standing between the Viso and Pelvoux districts. La Chalp and Césanne were also clearly seen. Returning for 15 mins. by the same way, the party descended direct without going back to the col, and gained Cervières that afternoon. The very big cairn on the summit is due to the engineers. The peak had been already climbed by travellers, viz. MM. Scherbeck, Grille, and Laurens, on September 10, 1877, by the west arête, from the Col de Terre Noire.*

From Cervières the party gained S. Michel, in *two* days, by way of Col de Gondran, Bourg Mont Genève, the Col des Baises or des Trois Frères Mineurs, Névache, the Col des Rochilles, and Valloire.

Dauphiné District.

POINTE DE LA GRANDE CHIBLE (2,936 mètres = 9,633 feet). *June 19.* Mr. Coolidge with young Christian Almer, starting from Valloire, mounted in half an hour to the picturesquely-placed village of Point Ravier, and in 1.05 more by steep grass slopes to the chalets of Le Meignoz. Thence climbing towards the point 2,541 mètres, in half an hour they were in full view of the desired peak, which was reached in 2.05 more, by following a track which led round the south foot of a sharp rocky pinnacle, and by climbing up the rocks on the (proper) right of a gully then filled with snow. Many names of local men were found scratched on slabs around the massive cairn, but the point seems to have escaped the notice of travellers, though the view towards the Aiguilles d'Arves is very fine. Walking along the south ridge for a short way, they descended snow slopes for $\frac{3}{4}$ hr., and, by a path which traverses the hillside high above the left bank of the stream, gained, in 2.20 from the top, a chalet at the angle of the valley, whence 40 mins. sufficed for the return to Valloire by way of Point Ravier; 4.10 up, 3 hrs. down.

GROS GRENIER (2,917 mètres = 9,571 feet). *June 20.*—The same party, starting from Valloire, and passing by Le Clot and Pravorsin and opposite the chalets of Pemian, mounted the gorge to the north of Crey Bond, down which lies the descent from the Pas du Gros Grenier.† They then bore to the left over snow slopes, and gained the east ridge (visible from Valloire) at its lowest point, overlooking the Combe de Verney (3.05 from Valloire). Thence they followed the ridge for 50 mins. to the summit, which is very well seen from Val-

* *Annuaire de la S. T. D.* 1877, p. 88.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 96.

loire. There were no signs of any previous ascent. The peak is the next highest south of the Grande Chible, and the name Gros Grenier properly belongs to it, and not to the lower summit north of the Pas. There is a fine view from the top, which includes both Valloire and S. Jean d'Arves. A splendid glissade down the snow-covered south-east flank of the peak brought the party in 15 mins. far down the Combe de Verney; then following the snow-covered stream for some way, they took to a little path, which in 1.10 from the summit brought them to the huts of Beaujournal, whence Valloire was reached in 50 mins. more by way of La Ruaz: 3.55 up, 2 hrs. down.

PIC DE COMBEYNOT (3,163 mètres = 10,378 feet). *June 27.*—The same party, reinforced by Christian Almer the elder, starting from the Lautaret Hospice, made for the great green spur, so well seen from the road, and by a stony track and steep slopes climbed up its east side to the crest (55 mins.). They then followed it for 20 mins. till it merged in the snow fields, traversing which they bore to the right, and by a very steep snow slope gained the crest of a snowy butress, almost directly under the highest peak (1.05). Thence 15 mins. sufficed to gain the east ridge, and 10 mins. along it brought them to the summit (2.45 quick walking from the Hospice), which is flanked to the west by the Roc Noir (3,118 m.), and to the east by the point 3,153—3,163 is not shown on the Etat Major map, though it duly appears on the Carte du Pelvoux, which itself misprints the height of the Roc Noir. The first ascent was made by M. A. Salvador de Quatrefoies with Jean Clot, on August 18, 1878.* The only other card in the cairn was that of M. Chancel, who made the ascent with E. Pic, on August 1, 1880. The view is curious, especially towards the Meije.

Returning in 5 mins. to the point at which they first gained the eastern ridge, the party descended by snow and rocks (bearing always to the left) to the snowy basin to the south in 25 mins. Thence they gained the ridge beyond the frozen lake † in 25 mins. more, and by the very stony glen of Fontenil (in which there is no stream, the lake being drained by a subterranean channel) reached in 1.25 the village of the same name, whence the Hospice was regained in 1.50 more by the disused mule track below the grand' route.

The next day the same party crossed the Col Lorichard ‡ to the Refuge de l'Alp, from which the pass is plainly seen. The Col lies between the Roc Noir and the point 2,775. Up from Hospice, 1.40; down to Alp, 1.25.

COL DE LA GIROSE. *July 9.*—The last-named party, starting from the Refuge de la Selle (3½ hours from S. Christophe), skirted the southern base of the Pic de la Grave for rather less than an hour. They then wasted between 4 and 5 hours in mounting to and returning from a depression, whence the descent on the La Grave side is nearly sheer. (For benefit of future travellers, it may be stated that this false col consists, on the south side, of a rock wall at the head of a lateral glacier; on the northern side it will be easily recognised as it is just to the west of a very fine sharp rocky pinnacle, not far from

* *Annuaire de la S. T. D.* 1878, p. 114.

† *Ibid.* p. 86.

‡ *Annuaire de la S. T. D.* 1877, p. 139; *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1878, p. 105.

the Pic de la Grave.) After discovering their error, they continued to mount towards the Râteau by easy snow slopes, till in 1 hr. 10 min. they gained a point some way above the névé basin of the Glacier de la Selle, and at the foot of a broad conspicuous snow couloir, close under the jagged ridge of the Râteau. The ascent of this took about 40 min. (in all about 2 hrs. 40 min. from the Refuge, rather quick), and led direct to the col—the broad snow gap just to the west of the Râteau. Bearing to the right to avoid some huge crevasses, the Col de la Lauze route was joined at the Col des Ruillans (above the Lac de Puy Vacher) and the Refuge de la Lauze (an easy 2 hrs. from La Grave), gained in 1 hr. 10 min. from the col. This pass is very slightly longer and more difficult than the well-known Col de la Lauze, and is well fitted for those who have reached the Glacier de la Selle from the Vallon des Etançons by way of the Brèche du Râteau, and wish to make a high level route to La Grave. It is believed not to have been previously made, though it *may* have been crossed (by mistake for the Col de la Lauze) by Messrs. Methuen and Montgomery in 1875, of which expedition no record has been published.

TÊTES DU CROUZET, or TÊTES BESSONNES (3,245 mètres = 10,647 feet). August 5.—Mr. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, starting from S. Christophe, followed the path to La Lavey for 40 min. after the bridge over the Vénéon (1 hr. 50 min. from S. Christophe), then bore to the left up grass and débris slopes. In 2 hr. 50 min. they reached the base of the snow couloir between the two summits; they mounted this for some distance, then took to the easy rocks on its (proper) right side and so gained the Col du Crouzet in 35 min. from the base of the couloir. Twenty-five minutes sufficed to reach the southern and highest Tête du Crouzet by way of its northern rock ridge and the rim of the snow slope on its west flank. The return to the col by the same route took 20 min., as there was some ice on the rocks. They then in 10 min. traversed the snow slopes at the east base of the north Tête to the Col de l'Ours at its north foot, between it and the Montagne de l'Ours. The ascent of the north peak was then made in 20 min. by the northern arête, the lower rocks of which are not easy. The return to the col took 20 min. Glissading down snow slopes towards the Vallon des Etages, and keeping always far to the right, they gained the level of the valley in 1 hr. 55 min. by a difficult and complicated descent down steep grass slopes, interrupted by rocky precipices. 1.05 more in violent rain sufficed to gain Les Etages, and 40 min. more La Béarde (3 hrs. 40 min. from the col). The first and only previous ascent of the north peak (3,225 mètres) was made on August 22, 1878,* by M.M. Carbonnier and Rabot with the Gaspards, and of the south peak (including the first passage of the col) by the same party on August 8, 1879.† Cairns were found in both peaks by the party of 1884, but no cards or names. The Col de l'Ours was first crossed on September 4, 1878, by M. J. Nérot with Gaspard, who made on the way the first ascent of the Montagne de l'Ours (3,043 mètres).‡

* *Annuaire de la S. T. D.* 1878, pp. 90-3. † *Ibid.* 1879, pp. 121-3.

† *Annuaire du C. A. F.*, 1878, 137-8.

PIC DE PARIÈRES (c. 3,050 mètres = 10,007 feet). *August 10.*—The last-named party, starting from Le Clot at the head of the Val Godemar, reached the Col de Vallonpierre by the usual path ($3\frac{1}{4}$ hours). Then bearing to the right, they traversed to the right to a grassy ridge, descended to a green hollow and below it by treacherous rocky slopes, and again traversed to the right, thus gaining (1.05 from the col) a green basin or promontory seen from afar, and to the north-east of the desired peak. Mounting débris and snow-slopes, they reached the col south of the point marked 2,945 mètres in the map, and overlooking the immense Lacs de Crupillouze (1 hr. 20 min.); climbed over the peak 2,945 mètres (mainly by its south ridge), descended to the snow pass at its south-east foot,* and by the north ridge reached the true summit (marked by a cairn), the culminating point of a great rocky promontory stretching towards Navettes (50 min. from first col). The view was very interesting, including the lower portion of the Vals Godemar and Champoléon, the huts of Chaumeille being well seen, and Sirac being very fine. Returning to the second col in 20 min. and traversing the base of peak 2,945 mètres to the first col (10 min.), the grassy promontory was regained in 40 min. Retracing their steps towards the Vallonpierre for a short distance, they followed a rough track down a promontory between two deeply-cut mountain torrents; traversed that to the right, and gained the level of the Val d'Issora in 35 minutes. A very rough track gradually developing into a path, took them by the very stony left bank of the stream to Les Auberts, the highest hamlet in the Val Champoléon (1 hr. 5 min., or 2 hrs. 50 min. from the peak). The peak was first ascended on August 17, 1883, by M. Edmond Bayard with Philomen Vincent of Navettes, direct from the Val Champoléon, by way of the lakes and the south ridge, the descent being made by very much the route described above to the Val d'Issora.†

COL DU LOUP DE CHAMPOLÉON (c. 3,000 mètres = 9,843 feet). *August 11.*—The last-named party, starting from Les Auberts, mounted the valley to the ruined hut at its head, where they had spent a night in 1880 ‡ (1 hr. 15 min.), and in 2 hrs. 40 min. by the route of 1880 they gained the Glacier Verdonne. In 10 min. they were at the foot of the couloir of the Col Verdonne, (from this point they made the second ascent of the Pic Verdonne § by the col, west face, and arête, gaining a most marvellous view of the south slopes of the peaks to the north of the Val Godemar) and in 15 min. more they gained the notch (immediately at the foot of the Pic Verdonne) of the new pass (4 hrs. 20 min. from Les Auberts). Traversing to the left the bergschrund immediately under the col, they made for a ridge of rocks in the mid-st of the glacier (20 min. from the col), and descended by these without much difficulty for half-an-hour, when they took to the snow on the right, and bearing to the left across avalanche débris

* *Annuaire de la S. T. D.* 1883, 141, 155-6.

† *Ibid.* 1883, 140-1.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 145.

§ *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 360; vol. x. p. 144.

quitted the glacier on its left bank (15 min.—1.05 min. from col). Traversing grass slopes, they descended steep white glacier-worn rocks, and managed to get off them near a fine cascade *far to the left* (30 min.). A rough descent of 25 min. led to the stream in the Vallon de la Selle, and the châteaux of Entraigues (2 hrs. from Vallouise) were gained in 1.25 min. more (3 hrs. 25 min.) from the col. This pass *may* have been previously crossed by natives, though it is unlikely, and no signs of man were found on or near the top; but has hitherto remained unknown to travellers.* It is specially interesting, as being the only *direct* pass as yet discovered between the Val Champoléon and the Vallouise, the well-known Pas de la Cavale requiring to be supplemented by a second pass.

COL DU PLARET (c. 3,300 mètres = 10,827 feet). July 27.—MM. Félix Perrin, A. Reynier, and C. Verne, with the Gaspards, mounted from Les Etages by the Combe du Ruisseau d'En Mont (= d'Amont, not Damon as the Carte du Pelvoux), and in 4½ hours gained the ridge between the Plaret and the point marked on the map 3,365 mètres. There are two gaps, either of which is passable. From that at the south foot of the Plaret the descent is made directly on to the Glacier du Plaret; from that at the north foot of 3,365, it is necessary to bend to the north by broad rocky ledges, and rejoin the route from the other gap. The descent was made to La Bérarde in 3½ hours.

Graian District.

POINTE DE RONCE (3,618 mètres = 11,871 feet); POINTE DE SOLLIETTE (3,046 mètres = 9,994 feet). July 14.—Mr. Coolidge, with the two Almers, starting from Bessans, reached in 1 hr. 25 min. the châteaux of Pierre Grosse in the Combe de Ribon. Traversing the slopes towards the south-east, and ascending by steep but easy broken rocks, the party gained in 3 hrs. 20 min. a point a few steps from the Pas du Chapeau Rouge, which is just north-west of the snow dome so conspicuous from Bessans. 25 min. easy walk up snow slopes led to the top of the snowy knoll marked 3,425 mètres on the French map; whence an hour's climb of the easiest description over the ridge led to the highest cairn on the Ronce (6 hrs. 10 min. walking from Bessans). The view was most superb, including everything from the Grand Combin to the Maritimes, though the Roche Melon surpasses it in its panorama of the plain of Lombardy. The peak has been often climbed from the Mont Cenis, † but has not hitherto been ascended by non-Italian climbers.

Leaving the summit, the party then walked down the snow-fields to the north, whence a fine view of the Arc valley and Lanslebourg is gained, and by which the ascent could very easily be made direct from that village. In 53 min. they passed a little glacier lake, at the lowest point of the depression between the Ronce and the peak 3,375 mètres, and mounted in 20 min. to the latter (no traces of any previous ascent

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 361; *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1879, p. 56.

† See Prof. Baretta's *Per Rupi e Ghiacci*, 47-8.

found), and in half-an-hour more reached the Pointe de Solliette (3 046 mètres), the peak overhanging the plain of Bessans. A cairn was built here also, as it seemed not to have been previously visited. Retracing their steps for 5 min., the party effected a direct descent down the rocks of the glen just north of the great hanging bit of glacier, which is seen so well from near Pierre Grosse. These rocks afford very good hand and foot hold, though they are steep, especially in the upper tier. In this way the party reached the grass slopes in 45 min., and Pierre Grosse in 45 min. more, whence 1 hr 15 min. sufficed for the return to Bessans (3 hrs. 5 min. from Solliette), after a most interesting day's exploration, in course of which a most marvellous view was ever before their eyes.

PUNTA DELL' OULIARSE; or MONT COLLERIN (3,462 mètres = 11,359 feet, New Italian Survey; 3,491 mètres = 11,454 feet of the French map). *July 16.*—The same party, starting from Bessans, ascended the Albaron (3,662 mètres) by the châteaux of Lau, the Glacier du Grand Fond, and the south-west ridge (5 hrs. 35 min. walking). They then passed along the south-east arête of the peak, and without the slightest difficulty reached (in 35 min.) the junction of the Albaron ridge with the main ridge at the point marked 3,491 mètres on the French map, and crowned by a huge cairn, built round a pole. It is most probably this peak which was climbed by M. Rabot on September 2, 1878;* it is inferior in height to the peak between it and the Colle della Ciamarella. Retracing their steps for 10 min., the party gained the broad snowy gap between the last-named peak and the Ouliarse (whence the descent towards Balme lies over the easiest possible snow slopes), and descended by the great glacier falling towards the Glacier des Evettes. This is much crevassed, but the upper portion is easily passed. The last bit down to the Evettes glacier could only be forced at a point on the right raked by the falls from a huge overhanging fragment of glacier. Unwilling to incur the great danger of being carried away by one of the falls which took place repeatedly, the party bore to the left, and finding no other point at which the lower tier of séracs could be pierced, were compelled to traverse the entire glacier to the north under the Albaron, and finally by a difficult descent down the very steep rocks of the point 3,249 mètres of the French map reached the left-hand moraine of the Evettes glacier (1 hr. 55 min. from the snowy gap). Hence 40 min. sufficed to reach the Col des Evettes, and 1 hr. 30 min. more were required to Bonneval.

The third column of the table given at p. 339 of vol. xi. of the 'Alpine Journal,' requires several corrections. No. 69 is the peak 3,442 mètres; No. 70 is M. Collerin, 3,462; and 3,327 mètres is 70 *bis* (in reality higher than 70). That part of the note No. 25 (appended to No. 71), which refers to M. Rabot's ascent, should be transferred to No. 70.

PEAKS MARKED 3,446 mètres (= 11,306 feet) and 3,383 mètres (= 11,100 feet) on the NEW ITALIAN SURVEY. *July 18.*—The same

* *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1878, p. 248. It is known at Bonneval as the Chalanson.

party, starting from Bonneval, followed the usual path to the chalet de Trièves (1 hr. 25 min.), then leaving on the left the way to the Glacier du Mulinet, crossed the Recula torrent to the left bank, and mounted the steep grass and rocky slopes on the right bank of that portion of the Glacier du Grand Méan which flows down between the Grand Méan and the Mont Sėti; a long moraine leads to the edge of the flat main glacier (2 hrs. 10 min. from Trièves). An hour's walk up the glacier led to the Col du Grand Méan* at the foot of 3,446 mètres of the Italian map (= 3,458 mètres of the French map), No. 84 of the Table, and in 20 min. more the frontier ridge was gained between 3,446 mètres and 3,383 mètres. The latter point—a wild rocky pinnacle—was climbed in 10 min. Much time was lost in trying to force a way up the peak of 3,446 mètres, in consequence of the vast amount of fresh snow, and an attempt by the north ridge failed completely. The true way is to bear along the west flank of the peak till the weak point in the sheer rocks of the south face is detected, when the south ridge is easily gained, and the summit won by passing along it without any difficulty. A cairn of unknown origin built round a pole was found on the highest point. On the descent the rocks were quitted in 20 min., the bergschrund crossed in 10 more, the Grand Méan glacier cleared in 25 min., the chalet de Trièves reached in 1.05 and Bonneval regained in 1.10 more (3 hrs. 10 min. from the peak).

These two points form No. 82 in the Table ('Alpine Journal,' vol. xi. p. 341), and are conspicuous from Forno. They are both *certainly* lower than No. 84—the Roc du Mulinet.

CIMA MONFRET (3,441 mètres = 11,289 feet; 3,361 mètres = 11,027 feet. New Italian Survey.) *July 21.*—The same party, retracing their steps to the edge of the upper portion of the Glacier du Grand Méan (3 hrs. 20 min. from Bonneval), bore straight across it to the east to the right of a conspicuous snow dome (3,441 mètres), skirting which without the slightest difficulty they reached (1 hr. 10 min.) the more distant rocky point 3,361 mètres, which had been taken for the true summit. Descending thence to the depression between it and 3,441 mètres, they gained the latter by the easy débris of the south ridge in the face of a bitter wind (30 min.); there were no signs of any previous ascent. The Italian map applies the name of Cima Monfret to the point 3,373 mètres a little farther to the north, where the Malatret ridge joins the main ridge; but 3,441 mètres is really the culminating point of this mass. The Ciamarella was very fine, while the Col de Séa and the chalets of the same name, and the Val Grande were well seen. Descending along the west slopes and crossing the bergschrund just where the rocks begin to rise to the west (15 min.), the glacier was cleared in 25 min. more, and Bonneval regained in 2 hrs. 50 min. more.

This is the peak marked No. 80 in the Table ('Alpine Journal,' vol. xi. p. 341). It is the highest on the main ridge between the Roc du Mulinet and the Piccola Ciamarella; for the points 3,451 mètres of the Italian map and 3,858 mètres of the French map do not exist, and are misprints; and the peak north of the Col de Séa (No. 79

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. 100, 475.

of the Table) is distinctly lower than the snow dome of the Monfret (3,441 mètres). A pass might be made between 3,373 mètres and 3,441 mètres, but the snow slopes on the Italian side are rather steep. From this peak it was easy to see that M. Rabot's and Mr. Yeld's routes up the Ciamarella are really quite distinct (and not identical, as 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xi. p. 340). The former lies from the Séa châteaux over the N.E. flank, the latter from the Col de Séa over the north slope of the Ciamarella.

MONT POURRI BY THE SOUTHERN ARÊTE (3,786 mètres = 12,405 feet). *July 24.*—The same party, starting from the Marais châteaux (1¼ hrs. from Tignes), crossed the ridge at the head of the Sachette valley, just north of the point marked 2,838 mètres on the French map (2 hrs. 10 min.). Descending slightly they traversed rocky slopes and rocks in full view of the Lac de la Plagne, and by the easy débris and snow slopes of the west face, gained the top of the Dôme de la Sache (3,611 mètres) in 2 hrs. 5 min. more. Descending to its lowest point the ridge running north towards the Pourri, they mounted along it—rocks and snow—encountering no serious difficulties, but in the midst of a tremendous storm. In 55 min. a snow-cone was reached, beyond which the ridge fell away rapidly for a great distance; experience of two former ascents of the Pourri by the same party, and later examination of the ridge from the Chasseforêt, convinced them that they had reached the highest point of the mountain. The Dôme de la Sache was regained in about half an hour, the Marais châteaux in 2 hrs. 55 min. more, and Tignes in 40 min. more (4 hrs. 5 min. from the summit)—very fast walking, owing to the extremely bad weather which came on after a perfect early morning.

The Dôme de la Sache was first ascended (apparently by the east ridge) by Messrs. W. Mathews and Jacomb on August 15, 1861;* but the ridge between it and the Pourri seems to have been but once traversed before the expedition just described, viz., by M. Edouard Rochat on August 13, 1880.†

DÔME DE CHASSEFORÊT (3,597 mètres = 11,802 feet). *July 30.*—The same party, starting from Pralognan, followed the Chavière path to Prioux (1.05), then in 55 min. mounted to the châteaux of Nants. Bearing to the north by a zigzag path and passing by the C. A. F. Refuge, they reached in 55 min. a sort of col above a long deep lake at the head of the La Valette pastures. Hence bearing straight to the east, by steep snow slopes, there being plenty of snow, they reached the edge of the great Vanoise snow-field in 1 hr. 10 min. A weary struggle through deep fresh snow lasting 1 hr. 35 min. brought them to the cairn on the Chasseforêt (5 hrs. 40 min. from Pralognan, the ascent from that village being 7,130 feet). The panorama was most wonderful, including everything from the Weisshorn and Dent Blanche to Monte Viso and the Maritimes. On the descent, the edge of the glacier was reached in 45 min., the col in 25 min., the châteaux in 40 min., and Pralognan in 130 min. (3 hrs. 20 min. from the peak).

* *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. ii. p. 393.

† *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1880, pp. 114-120.

The peak was first ascended on September 1, 1876, by MM. Puiseux and Maingot without guides, who crossed it from Termignon, near Lanslebourg, to Pralognan.* It can be ascended from several sides, as it is easy to gain the great Vanoise snow-field at five or six points. The easiest way is from the Granges de l'Arpont above Termignon, but there are no real difficulties on any of the routes. It has been often ascended by French climbers, but not before by an English party. A little to the south-west is the Dôme de l'Arpont (3,619 mètres), which was ascended by MM. Puiseux and Boutan on August 20, 1877.†

EASTERN PEAK OF AIGUILLE DE POLSET (3,430 mètres = 11,254 feet). July 31.—The same party, starting from Pralognan, followed the Chavière path to a point near the highest hut (3 hrs. 5 min.), then striking up to the right reached the Lac Blanc in 40 min. Hence they climbed straight up the steep slopes of débris and rocks to the point 3,047 mètres, on the edge of a branch of the Gébroulaz glacier (1 hr. 30 min.), whence easy snow slopes led up to the peak (1 hr. 10 min.), which is the beautiful snowy point so conspicuous from Pralognan (6 hrs. 35 min. from Pralognan). Descending a few steps along the south ridge, the party struck boldly down the steep east face, clearing the snow by long glissades in 25 min. In 15 min. more they gained a wide opening looking down into the Combe de Polset; a difficult descent down steep rocks to the left of a fine cascade took them in 50 min. to the floor of the valley; 1.05 was required to reach the chalets of Polset, and 55 mins. more to Modane (3 hrs. 40 min. from the peak).

Unless this is the peak climbed by Mr. W. Mathews in 1861,‡ it would seem to have remained hitherto virgin. By comparison with the highest point of the Aiguille—3,538 mètres (ascended in 1878 by the same party §)—the height of the eastern point would appear to be rather more than 3,430 mètres, say 3,490 mètres. The view from the summit was most extensive.

Mont Blanc District.

LA TOUR RONDE (3,775 mètres = 12,385 feet). September 12.—Mr. C. D. Cunningham, accompanied by Emile Rey and Michel Savioz, ascended this peak from the Montanvers.

Starting at 4 A.M., they arrived at the foot of the north-east arête at noon, and after two hours of easy rock work reached the summit at 2 P.M. They descended to the western Col de la Tour Ronde in 40 minutes from the top. In consequence of a thick fog which came on shortly after leaving the summit, the party were overtaken by the night above the icefall of the Col du Géant, the séracs of which were traversed by lantern light, and the hôtel at the Montanvers only regained at 4.30 A.M. on the following morning. This expedition would

* *Annuaire du C. A. F.* 1876, p. 205 sqq. Cf. *Ibid.* 1877, p. 144.

† *Bulletin du C. A. F.* 1877, p. 318.

‡ *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. ii. p. 401.

§ *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. 102-3.

be a long one even under favourable conditions, and would probably take from 16 to 18 hours.

The first ascent had been made in 1867 by Mr. D. Freshfield's party.* They mounted from the Brenva glacier, and descended to the Glacier du Géant by the eastern ridge (part of the watershed) and a north-eastern spur. Mr. Freshfield's Col de la Tour Ronde is on the eastern shoulder of the peak. The lower pass of the same name subsequently made by M. and Madame Millot † lies to the west of the peak. Mr. Cunningham's ascent seems to have very nearly corresponded to his predecessors' descent. The descent to the western pass is probably new.

It is worthy of note that the position of this peak with reference to the Brenva glacier is rightly given in Mr. Reilly's map, and wrongly in Colonel Mieulet's and the French Survey. It dominates the rocks separating two branches of the Brenva, and *not* the spur forming the eastern boundary of the basin of that glacier.

Monte Rosa District.

BREITHORN FROM THE SCHWARZ THOR (13,19 feet). August 16.—Mr. J. Stafford Anderson, with Ulrich Almer and Aloys Pollinger, left the Riffel Hôtel at 2.30 A.M. and reached the Schwarz Thor at 8.10 A.M. Two attempts at 8.30 and 9 to scale the rocks a short distance on the Italian side of the peak were unsuccessful, compelling a détour to the west for three-quarters of an hour. Thence a steep ice and snow slope led north-east to the arête, which was reached at 10.30 at a point a short distance beyond the summit of the precipitous rocks overlooking the Schwarz Thor. From this to the summit of the peak, the crest of the arête, or a little below it on the Italian side, was climbed, the base of the first of the two final rock buttresses being attained at 2.55 P.M. and the last one surmounted at 4.40. In a bitterly cold north wind the summit was gained at 6.45 P.M., leaving just time enough to get to the St. Théodule hut by nightfall. Time from the Riffel to the summit 16¼ hrs., and to the St. Théodule 17½, including halts. The ascent and descent of the various snow and rock peaks on the arête was tiresome and occasionally difficult. A corniche of varying dimensions along the greater part of the route added to the difficulties.

STELLIJOCH. August 25.—Leaving St. Niklaus at 2 A.M. with Jos. Anton Sumermatter and Felix Imboden, two English ladies mounted south-west to the Walkersmatt, then kept rather more to the south till they reached the moraine at the foot of the glacier that comes down from the point marked 3,357 mètres on Dufour's map. They went along by the north edge of the moraine till the glacier was reached, took to the glacier for a few minutes, and then—finding that they were rather too much to the south—ascended the easy rocks to the north (between the above-mentioned glacier and the Stelli glacier). Having reached the top of these rocks they found themselves at the foot of a couloir running west-south-west between the Inner Barrhorn (marked 3,597 mètres on Dufour's map), and a very small rock aiguille imme-

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. v. p. 230-4.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. vi. p. 384.

diately south of the Inner Barrhorn. This couloir consisted of first loose stones and débris, and afterwards of snow in rather bad condition. When near the top of the couloir they took to the rocks right of it, and finished the ascent by them. Time from St. Niklaus to the top of the pass $6\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., exclusive of halts.

A short distance to the south of the pass was a small rocky peak not unlike a castle tower; and a little farther south was the point marked 3,357 mètres on Dufour's map. Close by, to the north, was the Inner Barrhorn; farther off, north-west, the Ausser Barrhorn, marked 3,633 mètres on Dufour's map, with what Sumermatter calls the Barrjoch between them.

The descent from the pass was first over rocks, then down a wide couloir of loose stones and debris, keeping south-south-west until the Barr glacier was reached rather south of the place where the Barrjoch joins it. After this they followed the Barrjoch route north-west over the Barr glacier to the Pipi Alp, and from thence descended to the very comfortable little hotel at Gruben. Time from the pass to Gruben $4\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., exclusive of halts.

Sumermatter suggested that this pass should be called the Stellijoch. No doubt the shortest way to it from St. Niklaus would be up the south side of the Stelli glacier.

PEAK NEAR THE WEISSHORN (4,161 mètres = 13,651 feet). *August 6.*—Mrs. Burnaby, with Joseph Imboden and Peter Sarbach, made the first ascent of this peak. From the Biesjoch they kept on for 1 hr. on the Bies side, then by a rocky rib gained the crest of the snow ridge. This was narrow, with a corniche, but the snow was in perfect condition; the passage along it to the summit took $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

BALMENHORN (4,156 mètres = 13,635 feet). VINCENT PYRAMIDE BY SOUTH-WEST ARÊTE (4,241 mètres = 13,945 feet). *August 14.*—Mr. W. M. Conway, with J. Barmasse of Val Tournanche and a porter, starting from the inn on the Celle d'Olen, made the ascent of the Balmenhorn, and then went up the Vincent Pyramide by a new route. For details see above, pages 69–71.

GRAND CORNIER BY THE WEST FACE (13,022 feet). *August 25.*—Messrs. W. Asbury Greene and F. C. Mills, with Jean Vuignier (the tailor) of Arolla, and Martin Pralong, jun., of Evolena, left the Ferpèche inn at 3.5, passed Bricolla at 4.50, and soon after struck up the moraine of the Bricolla glacier. They kept on moraine and rocks till they were well above the ice-fall, then took to the glacier, making for some rocks about the middle of the west face of the peak which stretch down almost to the bergschrund. They climbed up by these, bearing rather to the left, eventually striking the left-hand arête about 50 feet from the summit, which was reached at 11.10. The rocks are smooth and, in places, rotten; so that whilst there is no place of special difficulty, care is required all the way. The rocks were much glazed with ice, which rendered going rather slow. On the descent the rocks took nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. This is believed to be a new route, or, at any rate, one not yet recorded.

DENT BLANCHE (14,318 feet). *August 25.*—Mrs. E. P. Jackson and Dr. Schulz, with A. Pollinger and J. J. Truffer, having ascended

this peak by Mr. Whympers's route, but climbed to the top direct without touching the S. arête, effected a new descent from the summit by following the western arête in its entire length to the southern branch of the Glacier de la Dent Blanche, which may also be called north branch of the Ferpècle glacier. It is described as very long and difficult.

WEISSMIES FROM THE LAQUINJOCH (13,225 feet). *September 3.*—Mr. W. H. Paine, with the landlord of the Saas inn and Theodor Andermatten, of Fee, made the first ascent of the Weissmies from the Laquirjoch, following the north-east arête in all its length. The ascent took eight hours from the pass, and was not easy. The descent was made by the ordinary route.

Bernese Oberland.

LAUIHORN, or BREITLAUIHORN (3,663 mètres = 12,014 feet). *August 11.*—Mr. G. Yeld, with Alphonse Payot and Henri Séraphin, made the second ascent of this peak (probably by the same route as Herr Hüberlin, who made the first ascent on August 26, 1869 *) in a little over 2 hrs. from the Baltschieder Joch. View of the Innerer-Baltschiederfirn very striking.

JOLLILÜCKE. JÄGIHORN (3,250 mètres = 10,660 feet). WILERHORN (3,311 mètres = 10,860 feet). *August 14.*—The same party went up to the Bietschjoch, and thence across the Bietsch glacier to the Jjollilücke. They then descended the Jjolli glacier, keeping close to the rock ridge which separates the Bietsch and Jjolli glaciers; ascended a small point, apparently the Jüghorn of the new Swiss map (from which the Bietschhorn is seen in quite a new aspect); and then, retracing their steps, ascended the Wilerhorn (first ascended by Herr von Fellenberg on August 29, 1879). † View very fine, including the Rhone valley, with the river and the railway. They then effected a direct descent, apparently new, by rocks and steep snow, well shown on the new Swiss map, into the valley below the Wilerjoch. The whole expedition took about 10 hours walking.

LONZAHORN (3,544 mètres = 11,624 feet, new Swiss map). *August 16.*—The same party made the first ascent of this fine point, from the Beichgrat. The name Lonzahorn seems appropriate. Times, 2 hrs. 50 m. up, 2.15 down, slight halts included. The last part of the mountain is steep ice, with blocks of granite sticking out of it.

'There are three points in the ridge between the Beichgrat and the Lötschthaler Breithorn, of which ours, the eastern one, is the most characteristic, though not the highest. The central (the highest) is 3,598 mètres; the western is not marked on the map. The whole group might be called Lonzahörner. Payot compared our point to the Aiguille de Blaitière.'—G. Y.

EIGER FROM THE BERGLI (13,045 feet). *August 6.*—Mr. J. Stafford Anderson, with Ulrich Almer and Aloys Pollinger, left the Bergli hut at 4.40 A.M., and, turning to the right a short distance above the hut,

* S. A. C. *Jahrbuch*, vol. vi. pp. 65-82.

† S. A. C. *Jahrbuch*, vol. xv. pp. 317-324.

reached the Vierscher glacier by a snow slope. They then walked south-west for about 15 minutes, and then west to a small fan-shaped snow and ice slope on the east face of the ridge leading from the Eiger-joch to the summit of the Eiger. Above this they took to an ice couloir at 5.40, which lasted 20 minutes; and then by rocks and couloirs reached the arête itself at 7.20. Starting again at 8, and keeping on the ridge mentioned by Mr. Stephen,* they joined Mr. G. E. Foster's route at 9.30,† and by it reached the summit at 11.55 A.M. Left 12.15, arriving at Grindelwald 6 P.M. by the Little Scheidegg. Time, from the Bergli to Grindelwald, may be reckoned $10\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 hrs., exclusive of halts.

BIETSCHHORN FROM THE SOUTH (12,969 feet). *September 2.*—Dr. K. Schulz, Herren Emil, and Otto Zsigmondy, and L. Purtscheller, without guides, effected a new ascent of the peak from the south, by the route attempted by Dr. Schulz in 1883.‡ Starting from a bivouac at the head of the Bietschthal at 3.30 A.M., they reached, in 55 min., the glacier at the eastern base of the peak, and in 45 min. more the rocks of the ridge which falls to the Thiereggghorn. Then crossing two couloirs to the west, they climbed up the second of these till repeated falls of stones made further progress dangerous. A very difficult climb up a steep rock wall led to the next couloir to the west, climbing along the sides of which, and dodging the falling stones, the party reached the ice-ridge at 3.33 and the highest summit at 3.55. The descent was made by the usual way over the northern arête.

Rhaetian Alps.

STAMMER SPITZE (3,256 mètres = 10,683 feet). *August 16.*—Dr. K. Schulz, with Johann Nell, a hunter of Manas, made the first ascent of the highest point of this peak. Starting from the Pradgiant Alp, above Remüs in the Lower Engadine, they climbed straight up the wall under the peak, and by a couloir gained the eastern summit in 4.25. After a long halt, they climbed over to the western point, which is close to, and seems to be about the same height as the other.§ The descent was effected by the couloir and wall under the western peak, which is to be preferred to the route taken on the ascent.

Stubaithal District.

FEUERSTEIN (3,269 mètres = 10,726 feet). *August 5.*—Mr. W. S. Harris, with two English ladies, guided by Johann Krahl, of Gossensass, and Johann Teisl, of Inner Pfersch, made what is believed to be the third ascent of this peak. The party started from Inner Pfersch (where they had slept at the curé's) at 2.20 A.M., and, after 3 hours' walk up the valley, gained the highest shepherd's hut, near which the German Alpine Club proposes to build a Clubhütte. In $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. more they

* *Peaks, Passes and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. ii. p. 22.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. v. p. 277, and vol. viii. p. 207.

‡ *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xix. pp. 1-23.

§ Mr. Farrar's west peak (*Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 360) is 150 or 200 yards away to the west, and about 130-160 feet lower.

reached the glacier, by ascending which for $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. more they gained the shoulder of the Schneespitze, which commands a good view of the ice-fall of the Feuersteinferner. They then had to pass over the shoulder of the Schneespitze, descend slightly, and cross horizontally the steep western slope of that mountain. After 1 hour's careful walking, alternately over rock and snow, the Niederjoch—which lies between the Schneespitze and the eastern arête of the Feuerstein—was reached; and half an hour more over snow brought them to the Hochjoch, which leads, on the west side, to the Stubaithal. From the Hochjoch the climb to the summit took 45 mins., chiefly over snow, in parts very steep (a second rope having to be used in one place to haul up with); to the south was an overhanging precipice within a few feet of the track, and to the north a very steep slope. The summit is composed of loose rocks. The view is certainly very fine, especially to the west, where the Oetzthal group is seen to great advantage. Eastwards the Zillertal mountains, and southwards some of the Dolomites, are clearly visible; and the north view includes the Stubaithal, Gschnitzthal, and the peaks about Innsbruck. They descended by the same route and arrived at Inner Pflersch at 5.20 P.M. The height of the peak above the village is rather more than 6,600 feet, and the distance considerable, so that the Club hut will be very useful. Krahl can be recommended as a careful, able, and obliging guide.

Gastein District.

HOCHALMSPIITZE (3,355 mètres = 11,008 feet). August 14.—Messrs. C. C. Binney, of Philadelphia (U.S.A.) and A. J. Butler, with Josef Gferer of Mallnitz (a good man) and a lad from St. Johann, left Mallnitz at 3.35 A.M. to make what is believed to be the first English ascent of this peak (the highest of the eastern Tauern group) and went straight up the Seebachthal to its head, the Lassacher Winkel. The direct ascent of the peak from this side is considered impracticable, and the party bore somewhat to the right, over *geröll* which looked almost impassable from below. There is, however, a hunter's path which brought them to the foot of the glacier. Crossing this they reached a rock gully leading up to the ridge which runs south-west from the peak. About half an hour's steep scrambling brought them to the ridge. Here they put on the rope and crossed the Trippenkees diagonally to a point just on the left of the Steinernes Mündl (10,317 feet), a very remarkable rock pinnacle on the south-east ridge. The last bit of snow was very steep, but being in excellent order required no step-cutting. From the top of the snow a short but sharp climb over nasty rocks (*greise*) is needed to reach the ridge. At this point, owing to severely excoriated feet and want of condition, Mr. Butler was obliged to halt. Mr. Binney describes the rest of the ascent as follows: 'The Hochalmkees was ascended for about 20 mins. in a direction parallel to the arête. Then we came to a point where the steepness of the glacier made it necessary to take to the arête, a rather stiff bit of climbing, for about 15 mins. We took to the glacier (*névé*) again (it was shaped like a section of a dome), and we

ascended to its top. Then we descended a short knife-edge of snow, covering a dip in the arête; and along the arête for about 100 yards to the rocks composing the summit, which was reached at 12.58, *i.e.* just one hour from the Steinernes Mändl.' Mr. Binney states that the view was at first totally obscured by mist, but this cleared partially away, so that they saw the Venediger, some of the Dolomite peaks, and the Millstädter See. Mr. Binney rejoined Mr. Butler at 2, and the party soon started down the rocks. Then a gliasade brought them to the ice of the Trippenkees, whence they descended to the head of the Güssgraben over steep *geröll* and grass. The further journey to the Flügelhof in the Maltathal (which was reached at 8.45 P.M.) was not agreeable, the path being at first very rough. A good walker would probably find 5 to 6 hours enough to allow from the summit to the Flügelhof. The best way to ascend the Hochalm Spitze is clearly from the Elendhütte by the Gross Elend Kees (Brunnhahrkees of Ball). The glacier slopes very gradually to within a short distance of the summit; and though this can probably be actually reached only by the short 'knife-edge' of which Mr. Binney speaks, there would not seem to be any difficulty in crossing the north-east ridge from the head of the Gross Elend to the Hochalm glacier.

Dolomites.

DREI SCHUSTER SPITZE (c. 3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet). *July 16.*—Dr. K. Schulz, Herr E. Zsigmondy, and Herr L. Purtscheller, without guides, climbed the northern point of this peak from Innerfeld-Sexten, in 12¼ hrs., with halts. They were separated from the highest point by a series of teeth, some of which were higher than their standing-point. The difficulties are described as being very great, and the party were benighted on the way down.

CROZZON DI BRENTA * (3,129 mètres = 10,266 feet). *August 8.*—Dr. K. Schulz (after a previous attempt on August 3 in company with M. de Falkner, when the middle peak was reached for the first time) with Matteo Nicolussi, effected the first ascent of the highest point. Starting from the Tosa hut at 4 A.M., they passed over the Cima Tosa at 6.30, reached the south point of the Crozzon at 8.55, the middle point at 9.20, and at 10 A.M. the northernmost and highest peak. The descent into the gap between the central and northern points was difficult owing to the steepness and rottenness of the rocks.

ALPINE NOTES.

WINTER MEETING AND DINNER.—The Annual General Meeting of the Club will be held at the Club Rooms, on Tuesday evening, December 16, at 8.30 P.M.

The Annual Winter Dinner will take place at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday, December 17, at seven o'clock. The chair will be taken

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 316.