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MONTE ROSA FROM THE SOUTH. By W. M. CONWAY:

NOTWITHSTANDING the comparatively simple geography of Monte Rosa, and the large amount of attention which has been squandered upon that mountain and its immediate neighbours, there still remains in the minds of most travellers a good deal of vagueness about the names and distribution of the subordinate peaks. The climber whose delight is the New Route, or, failing that, some ascent of more than first-rate difficulty, naturally turns away with disdain from such sixth and seventh-rate summits as the Vincent Pyramid and the Punta Giordani, and nothing here written is likely to change his mind, limpet to one idea. But that men who climb for love of mountains, in joyous callousness to names and altitudes, that they, with such a *hôtel* as that on the Colle d'Olen, giving access in an hour or so to such ice scenery as that of the Lys Glacier, should still leave the enjoyment of the southern slopes and valleys of Monte Rosa to our colleagues of the Italian Club is indeed strange.*

During the past summer it was my good fortune to spend the greater part of five weeks at Guglielmina's excellent *hôtel* on the Colle d'Olen. I made, as was but natural, certain ascents and explorations of a miscellaneous character into the heart of Monte Rosa, some of which shall now be detailed, by no means, however, because of any difficulties, novelties, or adventures connected therewith.

Speaking generally, Monte Rosa consists of a long ridge running north and south. This is crossed by a ridge running east and west from the Lyskamm to the Monte delle

* There is a rough though good sketch-map of the district in 'Boll. del G. A. I.,' vol. xii. p. 152.

Loccie. We should naturally expect the highest point of the mountain to be placed at the intersection of these ridges. But no such thing; the Signal Kuppe occupies the post of resistance, whilst a northerly offshoot is elevated to the post of honour. Fair-minded mountaineers, we should have thought, would be desirous to set this kind of injustice to rights so far as in them lies. We should have expected that with a map before them, and open eyes, they would turn to the injured peak rather than to its insolent neighbour, flaunting for ever, away there to the north, its few hundred feet of superiority. But such has not been the case; climbers have gone for altitude, and presumably gotten what they wanted, and the Signal Kuppe has been left to enjoy its superb view to itself; for, of course, the Signal Kuppe has the finest view. The ridge connecting it with the Colle delle Loccie shuts off from the Hochste Spitze the striking plunge down to the Sesia glacier, and equally shuts off the Macugnaga valley from the Parrotspitze and more southerly peaks. To enjoy the eastward view in perfection, indeed, even the summit of the Signal Kuppe is not the best place, for there is a shoulder in the ridge descending to the Loccie which looks like the summit from the Macugnaga glacier, and this shoulder (the point of junction of the arete coming from the Zumsteinspitze with that from the Colle delle Loccie) is readily accessible from the snow field between the Signal Kuppe and the Zumsteinspitze, and is the finest point of view, to my thinking, in the whole mass of Monte Rosa.

But to return to our geography. Passing southwards from the Hochste Spitze the names of the successive peaks are as follows:—Zumsteinspitze, Signal Kuppe, Parrotspitze, Ludwigshohe, Schwarzhorn, Balmenhorn (not exactly on the main ridge, but a little to the west of the watershed), Vincent Pyramid, and Punta Giordani. From the last-named summit two ridges divide, including between them the Embors glacier. The most directly southward of the two descends to the Colle d'Olen, the other, proceeding south-eastward, sinks to a Punta senza Nome, humps itself into the insignificant but far-seeing Punta Vittoria, and then leads away into the Bors valley. Any one of these peaks is accessible from the Colle d'Olen in a morning's walk.

The start for all of them is the same. Leaving the hotel, you go round the base of the Corno del Camoscio, over infernal piles of big stones (which it is intended some day to flatten out into a mule path) and then up the broad ridge

which leads to the Monte Oliveto, a rock something like the Riffelhorn, situated on the Colle delle Piscie. When just at the south base of the final peak of this rock, you descend by a well-marked path on the west face, cross this, and then again descend rapidly to the Colle, which is reached from the hotel in half an hour. Ascending the opposite ridge for five minutes, you come in sight of a wooden cross on the right, just below which, facing east, is the old hut known as Capanna Vincent. You follow the ridge five minutes more to a stone man on the top of a mound of rock studded with garnets. Just beyond, water pours over a little rock col, and this is the point where the glacier is entered and quitted in all ascents from the Colle d'Olen. In the descent it is an excellent place for a long final halt, commanding, as it does, a most glorious view—the Embors glacier in the foreground, the weird Tagliaferro and its companions beyond, and far away I know not what multitudes of distant lakes and thronging peaks.

The Punta Vittoria is now within reach of the laziest. It is only necessary to follow the ridge for a few minutes and then descend on to the Embors glacier; or it may be descended on to from the Capanna Vincent by an old miners' track. In half an hour the glacier is crossed, and the flat top of the mound of Victory won. The situation is magnificent. The higher summits of Monte Rosa are at hand; a thousand feet or more down, at the foot of an astonishing precipice, lie the tortured ice-streams of the Piode and Sesia glaciers.

On the Punta Vittoria you will probably be alone, but there are broken bottles there; on the Punta senza Nome there are none, and you may dream away as many hours of the summer's day as you please, with your back to every trace of civilisation, and before you the grandest precipices in the Alps. It is reached just in the same way as the Punta Vittoria, only you cross the Embors glacier a little higher up. You may climb to the summit from the left, which is very easy, or you may scramble, not without amusement, for some half-hour up the rock arête on the right.

The Punta Giordani was one of the first summits reached in the historical period, Dr. Pietro Giordani, of Alagna, having ascended it on the 23rd July 1801,* by what route is unknown. The peak, as has been stated, is the joining point of two southward-trending ridges; a third connects it with

* 'Bollettino,' 1870, p. 36, quoting from the 'Ecclético' of Varallo.

the Vincent Pyramid, and from this ridge the Indren glacier slopes away. The summit may be reached easily enough either from the Indren glacier or by the arêtes. The arête leading up from the Punta Vittoria was first made a route to the summit by Signor Farinetti, on September 13, 1872.* The way lies from the Punta senza Nome, up a rock arête of no special difficulty. The ridge from the Colle delle Piscie was climbed on August 10, 1877, by Signori G. Calderini and V. Zopetti.† They slept at the Capanna Gnifetti, which will presently be referred to. Starting thence, they crossed the Garstelet glacier to the top of the wall of rock which overlooks the Indren glacier; they descended this wall, crossed the glacier beyond, and so reached the arête which led them easily to the top. No one, of course, would think of sleeping out for this ascent now that there is a hôtel on the Colle d'Olen. From the hôtel to the top by either route should scarcely require more than 2½ hours.

The centre for the exploration of the upper part of the Lys glacier, the ascent of the Lyskamm and of the summits of Monte Rosa hereafter to be mentioned, is the hut known as Capanna Gnifetti. Not that there is any necessity to sleep there for these ascents (it is a cold and miserable shelter), but from it all ways diverge, and it is the point of junction for the routes from Gressoney and the Colle d'Olen. The way to it is easily found. Entering the Indren glacier at the point previously indicated, you have on the opposite side of you a wall of rock, furrowed by couloirs, upon the top of which the Garstelet glacier lies. These couloirs it is just as well to avoid, especially as by doing so no time is lost. Accordingly the route lies round the left-hand end of the wall: first horizontally across a snow-slope, and then to the right in a northerly direction. Thus access is attained to the Garstelet glacier, which is, in fact, nothing but a narrow strip of snow lying upon the lower part of the south-west buttress of the Vincent Pyramid. The north side of the Garstelet glacier is defined by a long island of rock, rising into two summits with a col between. The Capanna Gnifetti lies upon this island, just below the col, and at the east end of a patch of snow. Early in the year it is often buried under the snow. I found, when pressed for time, that one could reach the hut in 1½ hrs. from the Colle d'Olen.

The aforesaid south-west buttress of the Vincent Pyramid

* 'Boll.,' 1872-3, 318; see also vol. x. p. 503.

† 'Boll.,' 1878, p. 139.

was the route I chose (August 14, 1884) for the ascent of the peak. Our intention was to go first to the hut, but as soon as we had entered on the Indren glacier we changed our minds, and made directly for the foot of the couloir most to the right in the wall of the rock referred to. In $\frac{3}{4}$ h. we crossed the bergschrund and climbed on to the rocks on our right of the couloir. We mounted these in a diagonal direction towards the right for an hour, and then we found ourselves on the crest of the buttress-ridge. We followed this crest over some remarkable and steep slabs of very rough-textured rock, and so came to the point where the rock arête changes into snow. This soon merges into the south face of the pyramid in a manner rare in mountain architecture. The remainder of the route lies up the steep south face across a bed of rocks, and then by a short gentle slope of snow to the top, which we reached in $\frac{3}{4}$ hr. from the time we touched the arête. We were early in a sunless day, and the south slope, which was of blue ice, was covered with the hardest snow. Others might find things very different, and so be forced to spend hours where we spent minutes. For all I know this route may have been new. It certainly has not been recorded. Our whole time from the hôtel to the top was a little under 3 hrs. Signor Perazzi in 1882* ascended perhaps by a similar way. He started from the hut and climbed straight up easy rocks (probably the west rock face) to the top in $1\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. When we first reached the buttress arête and looked at this west face, we noticed, trending across the rocks from left to right, a broad shelf of rock, just like a mule path. It seems to be a chamois track, but its direction is such as to be useless to mountaineers.

The first ascent of this mountain was made on August 5, 1819, by Nicolao Vincent of Gressoney.† He mounted by the Indren glacier to the col between this peak and the Punta Giordani, and so followed that arête to the top. The same route, with the variation that the Punta Giordani itself was first ascended, was taken by Signori Calderini and Zopetti, under the impression that it was new.‡

The ordinary route to the top, by which we descended, goes

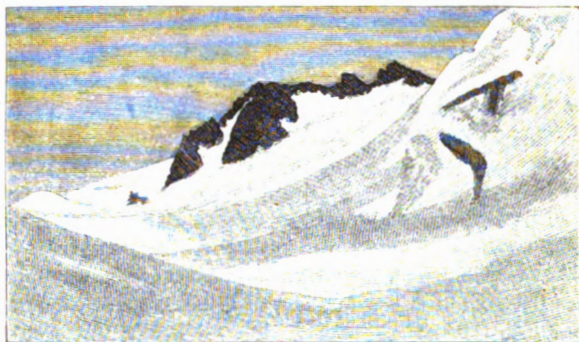
* 'Boll.,' 1883, p. 163.

† For Vincent's route see an engraving of M. Rosa from the Rothhorn, at the end of Ludwig von Welden's 'Der Monte Rosa.' (Wien, 1824.)

‡ 'Boll.,' 1878, p. 139.

from the Capanna Gnifetti up the Lys glacier, passing under a splendid ice-wall at the west base of the Pyramid. When this is passed, the route bears round to the right between the Balmenhorn and Vincent's peak, and then leads straight up the easy snow slopes of the north face to the top. Time from the hut 2 hrs.

This brings us to the Balmenhorn, a peak often mentioned, but seldom correctly identified. It is described and figured with all accuracy in the 'Bollettino,' (1872-3, p. 354; see also 'S. A. C. Jahrb.' vol. xi. p. 530). Studer iden-



THE BALMENHORN, FROM A SKETCH TAKEN BY THE WRITER ON THE TOP OF THE ROCKS OF THE CAPANNA GNIFETTI.

tifies it with the Schwarzhorn of Ludwig von Welden, but he is in error.* It is Zumstein's peak B; Von Welden left it nameless; the name was fixed to it by Schlagintweit. It is not on the main ridge of the mountain (that runs direct from the Schwarzhorn to the Vincent Pyramid) but is situated a little west of the watershed. It is visible from the rocks on which lies the Capanna Gnifetti, from the Grauhaupt, and Ayas, as well as from Turin. When Baron A. de Rothschild and Marchese Marco Maglioni, on August 17, 1873,† were preparing to sleep out on some rocks (probably the

* Von Welden says of it: 'Die zweite Spitze ist bald hinter der ersten (Vincent Pyramid), eigentlich nur ein gegen Westen auspringender Felsblock, den man nur von Vercelly etwas sieht, und wenn man oben auf dem letzten Plateau steht. Diesen Felsen hat Herr Zumstein mit B bezeichnet. Ich habe ihm weder Nummer noch einen Namen gegeben, und glaube ihn kaum höher als die Pyramide' (loc. cit. p. 35). The Balmenhorn is the Peak 3, 'punta senza nome,' of Gnifetti, 'Noz. Top. del M. R.' (Novara, 1858), p. 74.

† 'Alpine Journal,' vol. vi. p. 295; 'Boll.,' 1874, p. 123.

Entdeckungsfels) at the top of the Lysjoch, their guide (Peter Knubel) and a porter went about an hour down the Lys glacier, and climbed a rock to see if that was a better place for pitching the tent. They concluded it was not, and so returned. Perhaps the rock in question was the Balmenhorn. Tschudi again knows something about the peak, for he says that it can be climbed 'from the north, the Lysjoch side, up steep rocks; easier from the south.' Whence this information is derived I do not know, probably from observations taken by some one crossing the Lysjoch, but who did not ascend the peak. It is a ridge of rocks presenting a vertical wall to the N.W. and culminating at the N.E. end. The only point of attack for this wall from the north is where, in one place, it sinks to a snow col on a level with the surrounding névé. Once on the crest of the ridge, it is perfectly easy. When we were descending the Vincent Pyramid we determined to go a little out of our way and take in the Balmenhorn too; so having reached the snow-field south of it, we walked in 10 mins. to the foot of the rocks, which are easy enough on this side, and climbed them in 5 mins. to the top. There was no stone man, a defect we remedied, but on the one hand there was the finest view of the Lyskamm I ever saw, and on the other, a beautiful glimpse over the col between the Vincent Pyramid and the Schwarzhorn. It is to be hoped that Mr. Donkin will some day visit this upper portion of the Lys glacier, certainly one of the noblest regions of the Alps; when he does so, he will find no better point of view for the towering and fatal precipices of the Lyskamm than the craggy ridge of the Balmenhorn.*

The first visit we pay to any grand scene of nature is always striking, but it is only after long and close acquaintance that its full grandeur and glory take lasting possession of us. Mindful of this fact, I was soon again at the Capanna Gnifetti one morning about the hour of sunrise. This day we wished to climb the Parrotspitze, the Ludwigshöhe, and

* '6 Agosto, 1875. Ascensione al Balmenhorn (Monte Rosa), metri 4,156 eseguita dai signori Pedretti Andrea ed avvocato Giovanni Mariotti, della Sezione dell' Enza, colle guide Welf, Zaccaria e Vicaire di Gressoney.' (Alpinista ii. p. 179.) The Balmenhorn is usually quoted as 4,245 mètres, that is to say, higher than the Vincent Pyramid, which it certainly is not. 4,156 mètres seems to me about correct. To this account of what for the future must be considered the first recorded ascent of the Balmenhorn my attention has only just been directed.

the Schwarzhorn. We began by paying a visit to the Lysjoch (which was reached in $1\frac{1}{4}$ hour), and then worked our way back. In speaking of these mountains it will, however, be well to take them in reverse order.

The Schwarzhorn* was for a long time left untouched, because few climbers knew which it was, a mistake the less explicable when we consider that the peak stands on the main ridge between the Ludwigshöhe and the Vincent Pyramid, and is clearly visible from most of the well-known points of view. It was first trodden on August 18, 1873, by Baron A. de Rothschild and Marchese Marco Maglioni, who slept out for it, as we have said, on the Lysjoch. They ascended the peak from the north by the angle of rocks facing the Ludwigshöhe; they descended by the south, and pronounced that the easier way. We knew of their expedition, but had forgotten how they went. As we approached the mountain from the north it appeared to have a double summit, the left point being of rock, the right of snow. A very steep snow-slope leads to the col between these peaks; on our left of it was a rib of rock which is the main ridge of Monte Rosa; on our right of it was another rock ridge, descending westwards. The snow slope was a way if the snow proved to be good, the rock rib on the left looked steep but possible; the rocks on the right looked nasty. Luckily the snow was in splendid condition, so we cut steps up it to two or three little rock islands, and then mounted by them and the top part of the rocks on the left. The stone man set up by the first party is gone. The summit is of rock, not of snow as has been asserted. The ascent of the peak from the col between it and the Ludwigshöhe took 22 minutes, the descent one minute less, owing to the badness of the porter, who had to be let down like a sack. The scramble is the hardest offered by the southern peaks of Monte Rosa. The only fault I have to find with these southern peaks is that most of them have snow tops. The rocky top of the Schwarzhorn is no better, for it slants and is uncomfortable. At the north base of the tooth, however, just over the ridge and facing Italy, is a splendid set of ledges well sheltered and commanding a grand view.

* This peak must not be confounded with another Schwarzhorn, which is supposed to be a point, 4,295 mètres high, on the S.E. buttress of the Parrotspitze. No such point, however, exists, except in certain maps. See sketch facing p. 532 in 'S. A. C. Jahrb.' vol. xi., where the point marked *x* is not more than 2,500 m.

Just at the foot of the Ludwigshöhe, on its south and north faces, there are also comfortable rocks commanding noble views. It was from those on the south that we ascended the peak. We had to cut steps in ice all the way, and when we reached the top we could not stand upon it, as it was formed of a rotten cornice. The ascent took us 25 minutes from the col between this peak and the Schwarzhorn, the descent a quarter of an hour. The first ascent, as everyone knows, was made by Ludwig von Welden on August 25, 1822. To judge from the track set down on his map, he ascended up the west side by zigzags.

The Parrotspitze we climbed directly from the Lysjoch in three-quarters of an hour, the ascent lying first up snow slopes and then up the west arête, which is of snow and becomes narrow and steep when it joins the arête leading up from the Ludwigshöhe. There is nowhere to sit down on the top, which is a pity, for the view is superb. We descended along the arête till the slope eased off on the south side, and then we glissaded down to some sheltered rocks facing the Ludwigshöhe. Out of the freezing north wind and in the bright sunshine we spent one of the most delightful hours of my life. We were looking far over Italy and away to the distant Monte Viso on the one hand; on the other the eye skimmed the north face of the Lyskamm, and then leapt at one bound to the Matterhorn beyond. Round as far as the Weisshorn the guardians of Zermatt were visible in their immutable array. The Parrotspitze has likewise, I believe, been ascended from the Sesiajoch, the col between it and the Signal Kuppe, and for travellers coming from Zernatt that would probably be the most convenient way. It looks quite easy. It was first ascended on August 16, 1863, by Messrs. Macdonald, Grove, and Woodmass* by the route we took. The ascent of the peak direct from the Alagna side made by Sig. Calderini † was, to all intents, only a passage of the previously discovered Sesiajoch.

The Signal Kuppe‡ can only be reached from the Colle d'Olen by going right over the Lysjoch and descending a little on the other side, for the Lysjoch, strictly speaking, lies over the ridge connecting the Lyskamm with the Parrotspitze. The distance seems considerable, but with good snow we took

* 'Alpine Journal,' vol. i. p. 199.

† 'Boll.,' 1875, p. 39.

‡ Also called Punta Gnifetti, from Giovanni Gnifetti of Alagna, who made the first ascent, August 9, 1842; see his 'Nozioni topografiche.'

only 4½ hours in going from the hôtel to the top. The summit may, I believe, be reached by the S. arête from the Sesiajoch, but this probably takes more time than the way we went, which was the same as that taken by the early explorers. From the pass we descended slightly, circling round under the ice-cliffs of the Parrotspitze, and then ascending to the high plateau from which rise the Zumsteinspitze and the Signal Kuppe. On all sides we were surrounded by the most superb scenery. The Höchste Spitze was visible in unparalleled grandeur from its foot buried under séracs to its hoary summit. The Grenz glacier bent away before us in puzzling intricacy of curvature and crevasse. In 1 hour we were at the base of our peak. We climbed without difficulty on to the broken rocks of its wide west ridge, and mounted them as by a staircase in 15 minutes to the top. Here at last we found a really comfortable resting place where we might have spent a few hours of delight had not the threatening clouds begun to close in round about us. Close to us, a little way along the ridge that descends to the Colle delle Loccie, was a remarkable tooth of rock, conspicuous from the Pile Alp and other points of view in the neighbourhood of Alagna. It has been climbed, for there is a stone man and a couple of poles on the top of it. Further on, along the same ridge, is the shoulder already referred to, which hides the true summit from the Macugnaga glacier.

Our intention was to ascend the Zumsteinspitze before returning to the Colle d'Olen, so we descended rapidly to the snow plateau at its base. Here, however, the storm came down upon us with a writhing of wind and snow, so we turned and ran for the Lysjoch. We luckily got over it before we lost our way. Our after experience showed us that the golden rule for descending from that part in a fog is to keep continually to the left.

Joseph Zumstein, of Gressoney, made the first ascent of the peak that bears his name on August 1, 1819.* His route lay up the south arête from the above-mentioned plateau. The time now required for the ascent is about half an hour. He planted an iron cross on the summit, which we saw. The south-west face can likewise be mounted from the plateau direct to the top.

* See 'Boll.' ix. 121, quoting from 'Memorie della Regia Accad. delle Scienze di Torino,' vol. xxv. anno 1820. See also S. W. King, 'Italian Valleys of the Pennine Alps,' London, 1858, p. 266, and 'Alpine Journal,' vol. v. p. 136. Zumstein contributed an appendix to Von Welden's work above referred to.

The following facts may not be without interest. The Signal Kuppe is visible from the Hörnli, but not from the Gorner Grat. The Parrotspitze is visible from both. The Ludwigshöhe is invisible from the Hörnli, but I think can be seen from the Gorner Grat. The top of the Signal Kuppe is invisible from the lower part of the Macugnaga glacier, and only comes into view close to the Colle delle Loccie.

In the last century, and I know not how long before, there was a tradition in the Italian valleys, and especially at Gressoney, that a lost valley lay hidden in the heart of the Monte Rosa mountains.* It was fabled to be an earthly paradise, carpeted with richest meadows, watered by clearest streams, and shadowed by fruitful trees, but cut off on every side by impassable glaciers. Accordingly, in the year 1778 (the story is told by De Saussure) seven men, led by Vincent, started away from Gressoney and ascended all the length of the Lys glacier to the tooth of rock at the foot of the Lyskamm arête, and close to the lowest point, or false Lysjoch. They climbed to the summit of the little peak, and looked abroad towards the unknown valley of Zermatt, and they cried aloud that the tale they had been told was true, and the Lost Valley was found; so they called the name of the place *Entdeckungsfels*.† I thought that I would like to follow in their footsteps and see what they saw. So we walked up the Lys glacier, and found and climbed the rock; and the view that smote upon our eyes was one long to be remembered. From the Mischabelhörner to the Dent Blanche every peak stood in its place; above was a lowering sky, below lay a shaggy mass of glacier. The Lyskamm, with its great arête end on, shut us in on the left. Full in front rose the Höchste Spitze, and away round to the right all the summits of Monte Rosa, in their order, except the Nord End and the Punta Giordani. The little rock has been visited often enough, as it lies on the old route up the Lyskamm. It is well worth going to, for its own sake, by any traveller crossing the Lysjoch.

In conclusion, I want to try and attract a few adventurous spirits to this district, even if the lovers of scenery hold aloof. I have only two baits to offer them. The lesser of these is, that I believe a quick walker, starting early from

* 'Alpine Journal,' vol. v. p. 136.

† They repeated the journey in 1779 and 1780, and ultimately discovered that the valley they saw was that of Zermatt.

the Colle d'Olen, might, if the snow were good, climb all the peaks from the Vincent Pyramid to the Zumsteinspitze in one day, and get down the same evening to the Riffel. The second bait is a new and very fine route from Alagna to the Signal Kuppe. The bivouac would have to be made on the rocks west of the Colle delle Loccie. Thence the ascent would lie up the main east arête until it begins to steepen. Here it would be necessary to cross the south-east face almost horizontally by a snow slope and a snow shelf, and then to ascend a couloir, at the top of which it would be possible to bear to the right and get back on to the main ridge at the shoulder so often mentioned above. Hence to the top there would be a choice of routes, though, of course, the most satisfactory would be to follow the east arête. The only thing I don't like in this route is the couloir, down which stones probably fall. By proxy I almost came to grief myself about here. The circumstance arose in this manner. One wet afternoon some time in the summer of 1882 I was talking to Mr. Ellerman at Zermatt. He was thinking of making certain new ascents, and I, out of sheer lightness of heart, suggested that he should make the tour of Monte Rosa from the Riffel to Macugnaga in one day. I pointed out the perfectly practicable route on the model, said something about falling stones and avalanches, and went my way. To my horror, a few days afterwards, I heard that he had gone on the expedition, and it was with an intense feeling of relief that I saw him return safely, though by the skin of his teeth. He had climbed to the Sesiajoch from the Riffel, descended it for some distance towards the Sesia glacier, then crossed the face of the Signal Kuppe under open batteries of falling stones. He had reached the Loccie ridge in safety, crossed it at a point close to the Signal Kuppe arête, and then descended the Macugnaga glacier part of the way in an avalanche.* I have no anxiety to lead my readers into like dangers, but I may say that the part of the face of the Signal Kuppe they would have to cross in the ascent I propose is free from stones; in the short couloir there is risk, but there may be some rock rib near at hand which would afford a safe route.

The subject of passes between the peaks of Monte Rosa once broached, it may be as well to refer to the others which have been made. The Sesiajoch (between the Parrotspitze and the Signal Kuppe) is well known. It has been crossed

* 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xi. p. 120.

in both directions several times, but is, of course, easier taken up from Alagna.* The Ippolita pass, or Piodejoch, discovered by Signor Prina, September 4, 1875, is apparently a more dangerous expedition.† The bad part is the final slope of rocks and ice leading from the upper level of the Piode glacier to the pass, a point on the south ridge of the Parrotspitze, about 60 mètres higher than the Ludwigshöhe. I have an impression that a party led by a first-rate guide might improve considerably on Signor Prina's route.

SCRAMBLES IN THE EASTERN GRAIANS.

By GEORGE YELD.

II.

(Read before the Alpine Club, May 6, 1884.)

TO turn out on a rainy night with a somnolent native and flickering lantern to search for one's guide,—such was my first expedition at Cogne in 1882. I had engaged by mistake an old Val Tournanche man, who had in the early Matterhorn days been a first-rate climber, but owing to an accident was now quite unfit for work. He had walked up with our party of four from Aimaville on a beautiful evening, but after we left Vièyes rain came on, and I had hurried forward to rouse the good people of the Hôtel de la Grivola. When my friends arrived they, with the disinterested volubility of the irresponsible, reported the guide as left behind—lost or drowned—and as it was within the range of possibility that he had met with a serious accident there was nothing for it but to turn out and look for him. Luckily we found him before we had gone far. I had asked my friend, M. Vernet, the excellent landlord of the Hôtel du Mont Blanc at Aosta, to telegraph for Henri Séraphin from Cormayeur. He arrived the next day.

On July 31 with the Rev. G. Trundle we made the first ascent of the Pointe de la Valetta ‡ (11,073 ft.) the peak

* 'Alpine Journal,' vol. i. p. 49; vol. iv. p. 384; vol. v. p. 143, 367 sq.; 'Boll.,' 1875, p. 40, and 1876, p. 514.

† 'Boll.,' 1875, p. 272; 'S. A. C. Jahrb.,' vol. xi. p. 534; 'Alpine Journal,' vol. vii. p. 321.

‡ On the new map the name Valetta is transferred to an inferior peak more to the north.