

great couloir where Signor Marinelli perished, and were at the last and highest bergschrund (c. 4,200 m.), at the foot of the Höchste Spitze, when a stone of the size of a man's head fell from above and struck Ranggetiner, who was engaged in cutting steps. He rolled down, and Herr Strauss too, over the icy slope below, but luckily Herr Strauss managed to stop the fall with his axe. It was then found that the poor guide had had his left arm and two ribs on the right side broken. Unable to mount upwards, and then make the easy descent to the Riffel, because of the difficulty of breathing, Ranggetiner and his Herr were forced to retrace their steps. From 9.45, when the accident happened, to 5 P.M., when they regained the Jägerrücki, they were exposed to showers of stones and avalanches, which, added to a sudden storm, renders it amazing that they got down safely. We are glad to hear that Ranggetiner is progressing very favourably, and we trust that this additional proof of the great danger of the expedition will help to check the growing tendency to repeat it.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1885.

[The expeditions recorded in the following pages are believed to have been made for the first time by English or foreign mountaineers. In the cases where foreign climbers have either been the first or have preceded English travellers, references have, as far as possible, been made to the original accounts.]

Cottian District.

ROGNOSA D'ETIACHE (3,385 mètres = 11,106 feet). COLLE DELLA ROGNOSA (c. 3,100 mètres = 10,171 feet). *Sept.* 18.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, starting from the Etiache huts at the head of the Bardonnèche valley (which they had reached in 4.50 from Bramans by the Col. d'Etiache), worked round the rocky spurs of the Gros Peyron and the Rochers Cornus (3,127 of the New Italian map) to the very stony glen of Ginevater (55 m.), and mounted it to its head (1.5)—the ridge between 3,127 and the Rognosa d'Etiache. From this col the highest or south-west point of the Rognosa was ascended in 1½ h., much fresh snow and ice rendering the easy rocks of the south-west face rather difficult. The return took nearly as long, though, to avoid the traverse of the great ice couloir, the party bore more to the right, rejoining their former route just where they had begun the traverse of the couloir.

They then resolved to force a way down the steep rock wall to the Glacier d'Etiache, on the French side. The descent was begun at very nearly the lowest point of the ridge, and at first was not difficult, though steep. Below the rocks became much steeper and smoother, and considerable difficulties were encountered before the snow was reached in 55 m. from the pass, which was named Colle della Rognosa. An easy bergschrund was crossed, and the glacier traversed in a few minutes. (From here the line of the descent was well seen: it was made mainly in a black couloir a good way to the (proper) right of a conspicuous red mass of rocks.) Traversing a plateau dotted with many lakes,

they bore to the right to the edge of the cliffs at the head of the French Combe d'Etiache, then zigzagged to the left, and in a hollow found two tracks (55 m.); they followed the one to the right (in parts paved), and thus gained in 1.20 from the base of the col the bridge leading over to the highest huts, Bramans being reached in 2.10 more.

The highest point of the Rognosa was first attained on August 21, 1875, by Signor F. Montaldo,* who has had numerous Italian successors. The route taken can be well traced on the illustration opposite p. 372 of Martelli and Vaccarone's 'Guida alle Alpi Occidentali,' the summit lying far to the right of the spectator beyond the great ice couloir.

A slightly lower summit to the north-east was gained on August 1, 1882, by Signor Corra,† and it was this summit which was ascended in mist on August 4, 1883, by Mr. Coolidge,‡ both parties having started from the Colle Sommeiller to the south-east, and traversed the north-west face of the mountain. The highest point would appear to be impracticable from this side.

The peak is that numbered 13 in the table given in the 'Alpine Journal' (vol. xi. p. 385), and the Colle della Rognosa would be No. 12 *bis*.

Dauphiné District.

MEIJE FROM LA GRAVE (3,987 mètres=13,081 feet).—On July 2 M. Claude Verne, with the three Gaspards and J. B. Rodier, reached the Glacier Carré by way of the west ridge and the great couloir on the north-west face, the ascent being completed by the usual route.

On July 26 Herren Otto and Emil Zeigmondy and L. Purtscheller, without guides, succeeded in forcing their way along the formidable ridge between the Pic Central and the Grand Pic, thus effecting the ascent from the east. Some details of both expeditions will be found on an earlier page.

COL DE PARIÈRES (c. 2,900 mètres=9,520 feet). July 22.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, effected this new pass. Starting from La Chapelle en Val Godemar, they mounted to the south in 50 minutes to the hamlet of Navettes. They then followed a track along the left bank of the Tempier torrent due E. of Navettes, and after crossing and recrossing the stream left it in 20 minutes from Navettes and mounted south by a very rough and stony path. This led them to some pastures (40 m.), and a further ascent to the left led to the upland plateau of Lauplat, a most luxuriant alp (40 m. more). This was traversed to the left, so as to gain the stream flowing from the little Glacier de Parières, and a short steep ascent led them to the hollow (close to the glacier) where the track to the Col de Lauplat branches off to the left (1¼ h.). The ascent of the glacier by its right side was perfectly easy, but the bergschrund forced the party to climb a low ridge of rocks to the left, a short distance beyond which is

* *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1876, 20 sqq.

† *Rivista Alpina Italiana*, 1882, p. 153. ‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 351.

the snowy col (1 hour—or $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours' walking from La Chapelle). It lies between the Pic de Parières and the point 2,945 mètres, and was reached from the other side by the same party in 1884.* After repeating the ascent of the Pic de Parières (which commands a very fine view), they descended by easy snow slopes in 15 minutes to the great frozen Lacs de Crupillouze, and, threading their way among them, gained the edge of the plateau overlooking the Val Champoléon in 20 minutes more. The descent was long and stony; it is necessary to bear slightly to the right till in 40 minutes a fragment of a path seen from above (near which is a small hut) is gained, then *far to the right* to the angle above Les Clots en Champoléon. The main path bears away to the right, but by a rough track to the left the level of the valley may be reached close to Les Clots (1.40—or 2.55 from the col), which is about half-way between Les Borels (the *chef lieu*) and Les Auberts, higher up the valley.

Graian District.

CHALANSON (3,530 mètres=11,582 feet, Rabot; MONT COLLERIN of French map; 3,327 mètres=10,916 feet, of the New Italian Survey). July 5.—Messrs. Coolidge and Frederick Gardiner, with young Christian Almer, starting from Balme, in the Val d'Aia, followed the ordinary route to the Col de Collerin till they had reached a point about half-way up the glacier of the same name (about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours). They then struck up to the right across moraines, and by slopes of very deep snow and in weather rapidly becoming very bad gained in 1.35 the frontier ridge at the western foot of the peak. Easy rocks led to the cairn on the peak in 20 minutes, the return being effected in 15 minutes, mist and falling snow entirely concealing the view. They then descended along the sharp snow ridge to the west of the peak (always in thick mist) reached in half an hour the lowest point between the Chalanson and the peak 3,491 mètres of the French map (the descent to Balme is very easy †), and then mounting over snow and débris struck the ridge between 3,491 and the true Albaron at a patch of rocks just where it makes a great bend (35 m., or 1.20 from the Chalanson). Steep snow slopes led down to a rocky hollow above Avérole, that village being reached in 1.25 from the ridge, and Bessans $1\frac{1}{2}$ hour later.

The peak ascended is the Mont Collerin of the French map, and it was this peak which was reached from the Glacier des Evettes by the west ridge on Sept. 2, 1878, by M. Ch. Rabot, who asserts that the local Bonneval name is Chalanson, wrongly given on the French map to the true Albaron. M. Rabot and the Italian map differ greatly as to the height, the French map giving none; the peak is *certainly* the highest on the ridge between the Col de Collerin and the Ciamarella, and M. Rabot's estimate (on his map) of 3,530 mètres may be accepted as approximately correct.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 115. See also *Annuaire de la S. T. D.*, 1883, pp. 141, 155-6.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 117.

In order to finally clear up the very complicated topography of this ridge, it may be useful to give the following correction of part of the table in the 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xi. pp. 339-340.

| | French Map | Piedmontese Map | New Italian Map | Various Sources |
|----|--------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| 69 | 3,484 | Becca del Collerin | 3,442 | Punta Collerin |
| 70 | 3,491 | Punta dell' Ouliarse | M. Collerin 3,462 | Punta dell' Ouliarse ²⁴ 3,491 (Nichols) |
| 71 | Mt. Collerin | Monte Collerin | 3,327 | Monte Collerin (Nichols) ²⁵ Chalanson (Rabot) |

²⁴ Add: ascended by Mr. Coolidge, July 16, 1884, by ridge between it and Albaron (*Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 117).

²⁵ Add: ascended by Messrs. Coolidge and Gardiner, July 5, 1885 (v. *supra*).

It may be as well to note here, in connection with note 29 of the same table, that Mr. Yeld's and M. Rabot's routes up the Ciamarella are really *entirely* distinct. Mr. Yeld gained the west ridge of the peak by starting from the Colle Tonini and working round the flank of the Piccola Ciamarella to the main ridge just east of that point. M. Rabot (who has since been followed by several Italian parties), starting from the chalets of Séa, climbed up rocks and snow slopes to a great snowy shoulder due north, and so gained the west ridge much farther east than Mr. Yeld. Both parties struck the ordinary route when they reached the west ridge. The peak has also been reached by the great south rocky face above Balme by Signor G. Rey, in September 1883.*

PUNTA BONNEVAL (3,385 mètres=11,106 feet). August 4.—Mr. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, made the ascent of this peak, which, though climbed by the Italian surveyors, does not hitherto seem to have been visited by a traveller. Starting from Bonneval, they reached the right bank of the upper part of the Glacier du Grand Méan under the Grand Méan in 3½ hours' walking. They bore across the glacier to the right, but being cut off had to descend a rocky buttress to gain the lower part of the glacier, by which they reached the foot of the peak in 1.20 more. Instead of striking up the couloir due east of the peak at once after crossing the bergschrund they climbed up steep rocks to the left till near the couloir, and then mounted by easy broken rocks to the right (proper) of the couloir, only taking to the snow towards the summit of the gully. This was reached in 40 minutes from the bergschrund. (Easy snow slopes on the south base lead down to the Glacier de Séa, and the pass may perhaps be called the Col de Bonneval.) Half an hour was required to reach the cairn on the peak, it being found easier to keep along the rocks and snow on the Italian side of the east ridge, taking to the ridge itself only at the end. The point is admirably situated for the study of the complicated Ciamarella range. It is No. 79 in the

* *Rivista Alpina Italiana*, 1884, p. 2.

table,* the col lying between it and 3,451 of the map, though the latter figure is a bad misprint, the point being far lower than the Punta Bonneval.

In 7 minutes the party descended by the south-west ridge to a notch, whence in 40 minutes by a gully (the easy rocks on the right of which were descended) the upper snow field was reached, and in 15 minutes more the moraine between the Grand Méan and Evettes glaciers. In 30 minutes the Glacier des Evettes was traversed to the lake of the same name ($1\frac{1}{2}$ hour from the top), whence Bonneval was regained by the usual route in 1.35. The route taken on the descent is far the shortest and best for anyone starting from Bonneval.

Taken in connection with the ascents of the same party in 1883 and 1884 along the ridge between the Col de Séa and the Col Girard,† it completes the exploration of this corner of the Graian Alps.

It may be noted that the point 3,373 m. of the Cima Monfret (No. 80 of the table), of which the higher point (3,441) was ascended by the same party, July 21, 1884, from the French side,‡ was on August 22, 1884, climbed by the far steeper Italian face by Signori Vaccarone and Turbiglio. On September 2, 1884, 3,441 was also climbed by Signor Corra.§

CIMA DELL' OUILLE, OR AUILLE (3,446 mètres = 11,306 feet, New Italian map). August 23.—Mr. Coolidge, with young Christian Almer, starting from Dégioz, in Val Savaranche, having reached the Col de Trélore, or d'Entrelor, by the King's hunting path in 3.50, kept along the ridge to the south, and by easy débris slopes reached the *Cima di Percia* (3,182 mètres) in 25 minutes. Continuing to follow the ridge to the south, they struck down to the left by steep broken rocks, just before reaching a cairn on a rocky pinnacle, and traversed them above the eastern Ghiacciaio di Percia to the *Colle di Percia* (35 m.). The new map is incorrect here, for the two glaciers are separated by a rocky ridge, which on its west side is decidedly steep. They then mounted rocks and snow, always bearing due south, skirted a pinnacle of red rocks on the Val de Rhêmes side, and gained a ruined cairn on the point marked 3,390 mètres (about 45 m. from Colle di Percia). This is most probably the *Pointe de Vaudaletta* (of the Alpine Club map), ascended by MM. Puiseux on August 14, 1877.|| A descent down a rocky slope was followed by an ascent up snow and rocks, and along a crest by which the Cima della Ouille was gained in just over 15 minutes' quick walking (1 hr. from the Colle di Percia). According to the new map this point is 8 mètres higher than Tout Blanc, the next peak to the south, which can be reached from the Nuvolé chalets; thus the Ouille is the highest point in the range separating the Val Savaranche and the Val de Rhêmes. There were no traces of any previous ascent, so a cairn was built with the numerous stones scattered around.

On the return the Vaudaletta was reached in little more than 10

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 341.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 341, note ²³; vol. xii. p. 117-19.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 118.

§ *Rivista Alpina Italiana*, 1884, p. 99.

|| *Bulletin du C. A. F.*, 1877, p. 315-16.

minutes, and in 25 minutes more a point a little way above the Colle di Percia, where there is a wooden pole planted in a great crag. The descent from this point to the glacier on the west lay over steep rotten rocks, and took only 5 minutes' scrambling, the wall under the actual pass being far higher and steeper. The party kept along the right side of the glacier, but at its end were forced to cut across a steep tongue of ice to the left. The moraine was reached in 35 minutes from the col, the chalets of Entrelor in 45 minutes more; a track through the forest to the right then led the party in 40 more (2 hours from col) to Notre Dame de Rhêmes, where they were most hospitably entertained by the curé.

This peak is probably the B. de l'Auille of the Alpine Club map. The lettering of the new Italian map is so indistinct that it is impossible to say whether the first letter is 'A' or 'O.'

TRAVERSIÈRE (3,495 mètres = 11,467 feet). August 24.—The last-named party, starting from Notre Dame de Rhêmes, reached the Col de Bassac by the usual route in 4.25, very leisurely walking. They then ascended the peak to the south of the pass—the highest point (save the Invergnon) in the range between the Val de Rhêmes and the Val Grisanche. The first rocky tooth on the ridge was easily climbed, but the second and higher gave considerable trouble. Beyond, however, there was no great difficulty, the great snow ridge or some rocks below it on the Val Grisanche side being followed to the great cairn built by the surveyors on the summit. Rather over 1½ hour was spent in the climb from the col. The view was extremely fine, the glaciers at the head of the Val de Rhêmes appearing to be of enormous extent. The descent to the col took 1.10, the bad bit on the second tooth being turned by descending to the glacier on the Val de Rhêmes side. The party then descended to the highest Vaudet chalets in 1.5, and reached Fornet, in Val Grisanche, in 1.40 more.

The peak is probably the Mont Bassac of the Alpine Club map, and this undoubtedly is the most suitable name; but the Italian map marks a lower peak to north as 'Bassac Nord,' and another (also lower) to the south as 'Bassac Sud.'

To avoid possible misapprehension it may be added that on August 5, 1878, the same party, with the elder Christian Almer, crossed the Col de Bassac déré (Col de Bassac of Alpine Club map), and ascended the Bec de la Traversière, 3,341 mètres (Petit Mont Bassac of Alpine Club map),* and that this pass and peak were very well seen from the peak climbed in 1885, which is a considerable distance farther north.

BECCA DELL' INVERGNAN (3,608 mètres = 11,838 feet, New Italian map; BEC D'INVERGNON, 12,000 feet, Alpine Club map). August 25.—The last-named party, starting from Fornet and passing by the Mont Forciaz chalets, reached the right edge of the upper part of the Ghiacciaio dell' Invergnan in 2.35 quick walking. To avoid step-cutting they climbed up the rocks of the peak, keeping not *very* far from the glacier (i.e. the south rim of west face), and, skirting to the right a bold pinnacle, seen from below, gained the level of the Col

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 101.

de la Grande Rouse (2.50). They then followed the south arête to the summit in 55 minutes, the mica schist ridge being broad and easy save at one point, where a great boulder intercepted the way and had to be turned by some steep rocks on the Val Grisanche side.

They then resolved to try to descend by the north ridge, which, it seems, had been done by another party a few days before, though no traces were found, and there was no indication of the new route in the cairn at the top. Much fresh snow lay on the upper ledges, which otherwise were not difficult; it was found best to keep slightly on the Val Grisanche side for the best part of the way. When near the end of the steep part, and in order to avoid the serrated ridge, a short descent on to the Val de Rhêmes face by very easy débris slopes, a traverse and reascent to the main ridge were effected (10 minutes altogether). In this way the main peak was cleared in 55 minutes from the summit, this route being far easier and shorter than that by which the ascent was made. The descent from the ridge between the Invergnan and the point 3,183 mètres to the north branch of the Invergnan glacier took 50 minutes, there being several teasing rocky barriers to force. A glissade then took the party in 20 minutes to the point where they had reached the glacier in the morning, whence 1.25 sufficed to regain Fornet. In all the ascent from Fornet took 6.20, and the descent 3¼; total, 9.50 actual walking.

The peak was attempted by way of the Col de la Grande Rouse and the southern ridge by a large English party in 1864,* but, owing to the insecure appearance of the ridge, they halted some way below the highest point. The first actual ascent of the highest point was made on August 4, 1874, by Signori Martelli, Barale, and Gorret, by the southern ridge.† The second was made on July 30, 1885, by Signor F. Vallino, by way of the northern ridge.‡ The third is that described above when the peak was for the first time traversed.

VARIAION OF THE COL MONEI. August 8. The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge and Mr. G. Yeld, with young Christian Almer, Henri Séraphin, and Joseph Jantet of Epinel (as porter) left the châteaux of Monei at 5.10 A.M. After reaching the upper plateau of the Monei Glacier they turned to the right to examine two conspicuous windows in the rock-wall east of the eastern Rossa Viva. The western of these two openings is difficult and decidedly dangerous from the Monei side, while the eastern is risky owing to falling stones. On the other (Noasca) side of the ridge (as the party afterwards found) the western opening is feasible, but the eastern looks very bad, and moreover does not, as the western one does, descend upon the Rossa Viva Glacier, but is merely a variation of the Col Monei. After an examination of these cols the party went to the Col Monei and ascended a little distance to the ridge on the west of the col for the view. They then descended to the col, climbed a small mamelon on the east, and went down by

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ii. p. 29.

† Gorret and Bich's *Guide de la Vallée d'Aoste*, p. 399; *Alpine Journal*, vol. vii. p. 317.

‡ *Rivista Mensile del C. A. I.*, 1885, p. 218.

rocks and a couloir to the Teleccio Glacier. Thence, after Mr. Coolidge and Almer had ascended the Ondezana by Mr. Yeld's route of 1879,* the whole party descended to La Muanda. This variation is somewhat higher than the Col Monei (3,428 mètres=11,246 feet).

TÊTE DE MONEI (*circa* 3,500 mètres=11,483 feet). August 10.—The same party left La Muanda at 6.30 to explore the Rossa Viva Glacier, having failed to get a satisfactory view of this part of the chain from the Tour du Grand St. Pierre on the previous day. They reached the foot of the Monte Nero (3,381 mètres, New Map) in 2 h. 20 min., and the centre of the Rossa Viva Glacier in 23 min. more. Thence to the foot of the rocks took 45 min., from the rocks to the top 40 min. more, very moderate walking. This point appears to be new. An hour and a quarter was spent on the top, which is at the junction with the main ridge of the lateral ridge which runs down from the main ridge to the Monte Nero. It commands a fine view of the Monei Glacier (whence Tête de Monei seems a suitable name), and of all the peaks in the circle from the Patri (Pène Blanche, Alpine Club map; Cisseta, New Survey) to the Rossa Viva West. There is an important error in the new map in the representation of the 'Ghiacciaio di Money,' which ought to be *on the shoulder* of the Patri, and not as laid down on the map. The ridge, too, on which the party stood ought to curve more to the west than it is made to do on the map. In 50 min. the party regained the knapsacks on the centre of the glacier, and leaving an obvious col led up to by a couloir (supposed to be Col de Loza) to their right, crossed over the ridge near to the point marked 3,174 mètres on the new map. They then descended by the Alps of La Motta and Goj to La Bruna, which was reached in 3 h. 40 min. walking from the Tête de Monei. This expedition was very interesting topographically.

TÊTE DE LA TRIBULATION (3,642 mètres=11,949 feet). August 11. The same party left La Bruna at 5.35, and reached the southern Glacier de Grandcrou † (called Ghiacciaio di Gay on the new map) in 1 h. 50 min., and mounted it for 40 min. Thence to the rocks at the foot of the Tribulation took 45 min.; thence to the summit 55 min. This was probably the second ascent, the first having been made by S. Vaccarone from the western side. On leaving the Glacier de Grandcrou (south), they turned up a tributary glacier ‡ which descends from the ridge between the Tête de la Tribulation and the point marked 3,543 mètres on the new map, and keeping close to some rocks on the right hand (mounting), reached the ridge (snow) without difficulty though the weather was bad. Thence the summit was easily attained. Five minutes only were spent on it, but a sudden lifting of the clouds gave a perfect view of the Valnontey, with Cogne in its green basin at the end. The Col de Grandcrou was reached in 1 h. 30 min., and in 5 h. 2 min. more (a second bergschrund having given some trouble) Cogne was regained after a most interesting round of four days.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. p. 363.

† Dr. Baretto.

‡ Dr. Baretto gives the name Ghiacciaio della Tête de la Tribulation to this glacier in his *Schizzo Topografico* of the Grand Paradis group.

The chalet at La Bruna, though the herdsmen were most hospitable, cannot be recommended.

COL FORCHES (considerably over 10,000 feet); MONTE VESO DI FORZO, or FUSO DI FORZO (Baretti) (*circa* 3,371 mètres=11,060 feet). August 16.—The same party, without J. Jantet, leaving Cogné at 4.35, reached the Col de Bardoney in 4 h. 20 min. They then descended on the other side, and keeping to the right and crossing apparently two (?) spurs (a thick mist was very troublesome), found themselves at the foot of a long couloir with snow conspicuous at its head. The summit of this couloir they ascended in about 2 h. 5 min. walking from the Col de Bardoney. No name (Col Forches seems appropriate) is given to this col on maps; it is parallel to the one for which the name Col de la Muraille Rouge was proposed by Mr. Yeld's party in 1883, and is the eastern of the two cols named Colle Duplice del Monte Veso di Forzo of Dr. Baretti.*

From the col in 45 min., step-cutting being necessary, they reached the peak marked 3,500 mètres on the new map, the *Monte Veso di Forzo* of Dr. Baretti. In the cairn they found the card of Dr. Baretti, who made the only previous ascent on August 7, 1866. The view cleared up several points. 1. There is a great error in the new map. The glacier thereon called Ghiacciaio di Sengie, and represented in unbroken connection with the Ghiacciaio di Rol, is divided by a high ridge which runs down from the Punta Forches to the point 3,105 mètres, completely separating the two glaciers. 2. The point on which the party stood is certainly of a greater altitude than the 3,300 to which, according to Mr. D. W. Freshfield's note,† it is to be degraded in future editions of the new Italian map. This peak, though it may not compete with the Sengie, is—it was unanimously agreed by the party—at least as high as the Punta Forches, viz. 3,371 mètres=11,060 feet. It is much to be wished that the names of the peaks and cols in the ridge between the Punta Sengie and Col de Bardoney should be authoritatively fixed. Even Dr. Baretti's sketch map fails in its usual accuracy in this part of the group.

The party took the point 3,309 of the new map to be the Roccia Azzurra.

In 20 min. the col was regained, and the glacier—in part steep—descended towards the Valeiglia (or Valeille), and quitted in 1 h. for a moraine on the right steep enough to require steps to be cut in it here and there. The party then kept to the right at a considerable height, and having made a traverse for some distance, and reached the valley with some little trouble in 1.20, regained Cogné in 1.30 more, after an absence of 15 h. 50 min., including all halts.

BECCA DI MONTANDEYNÉ (3,850 mètres=12,631 feet). August 19.—The same party left the Chalet de l'Herbetet at 4.50 A.M., and by the

* Sig. Vaccarone calls the col 'veramente alpinistico' west of the Monte Veso (*i.e.* between it and the Roccia Azzurra) 'Colle di Monveso' (*Guida per le Valli dell' Orco, &c.*, p. 119), so that Col Forches seems a suitable name for the eastern col between the Monte Veso and the Punta Forches (which is styled 'La Grande Arolle' by Dr. Baretti).

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 176.

same route as was followed by Mr. Yeld's party on August 5 reached the foot of the Fenêtre de Dzasset in 3.10. They then walked parallel with the main ridge till they reached the north-east foot of the peak, then, keeping a little to the left, crossed the bergschrund and turned again to the right up a steep bit of ice, whence, gaining the rocks of the eastern face of the mountain, they reached the summit by these rocks, which in places were steep, in 1 h. 45 min. from the foot of the Fenêtre de Dzasset. They spent 1 h. 30 min. on the top, and then descended by the route followed in the ascent to the Fenêtre de Dzasset in 1 h. 8 min. Thence in 1 h. 10 min. they reached the snow of the Montandeyné Glacier, kept down it, inclining a little to the right, got off the glacier in 20 min. more, reached the Montandeyné chalet (having crossed a royal hunting path on the way) in 45 min., the chalet of Lavassei in 20 min. (when the royal path was joined), crossed the torrent (at Terré?) in 30 min., and reached Dégioz in 1 h. 25 min. more. This expedition can be recommended. The only previous ascent of the Becca di Montandeyné was made by SS. Vaccarone and Gramaglia-Ricchiardi (whose card was found on the summit) on August 21, 1875, direct from the Val Savaranche side.*

PUNTA BUDDEN (northern and southern points, 3,678 mètres=12,067 feet). August 5.—Mr. G. Yeld, with Henri Séraphin and Joseph Jantet, of Epinel, left the Châlet de l'Herbetet at 6.30 A.M., and following the route for the Fenêtre de Dzasset when they reached the Col Bonney, turned up the rocks to its left, and climbed the first and second summits nearest the same col. They found traces of a previous party on the second peak, which from the Glacier de Dzasset appears undoubtedly the highest point between the Col Bonney and the Fenêtre de Dzasset; but to their surprise they saw a double-headed point to the south which was certainly higher by a few feet. This was reached in half an hour by an interesting climb, at first through a long corridor (about 100 feet), so narrow that they had to squeeze themselves through it. The southern double-headed point is exactly like a tuning-fork. Curiously enough, when seen from the Montandeyné Glacier this tuning-fork appears just as decidedly the highest point as the northern point does from the Glacier de Dzasset. No mention of the corridor—the most striking bit of the climb—occurs in Dr. Baretto's account of his first ascent of the Punta Budden, September 13, 1875,† and the northern point seems so decidedly the top when seen from the Dzasset Glacier, from which he ascended it, that this would appear to be the first ascent of the southern point. The party descended to Cogne. Approximate times: Châlet to foot of peak, about 3h. 10m.; to first summit, 40 min.; to second, 25 min.; to tuning-fork, 30 min. This peak is not marked on the New Map.

GRIVOLETTA (3,526 mètres=11,566 feet). August 14.—The same party, without Jantet, ascended the peak marked 3,526 mètres on the New Map, in the ridge which runs from the top of the Grivola in a

* *Bollettino del C. A. I.*, 1878, pp. 97-99.

† *Por Rupi e Ghiacci*, 78-81.

north-eastern direction, in a line between the Grivola and the châteaux of Trajo. This point shows very well from the Cogne path near Pont d'El; seen thence it has a certain likeness to its great neighbour, so that Grivoletta seems a suitable name. The usual route for the Grivola was followed till the Glacier de Trajo (called Ghiacciaio della Grivola on the new map) was reached, when the party kept more to the right, and after reaching the foot of the peak, the rocks of which are very red, climbed up by a sort of arête which is apparent from the foot of the rocks. No traces of any previous ascent were found. The climb presented no difficulties. The view from the summit was good; St. Pierre in the Val d'Aosta with parts of the same valley near Morgex, and of the Cogne valley, near Pont d'El, being very clearly seen, as well as the cattle near the châteaux of Noumenon, immediately below. Times: Left Cogne, 4.48 A.M.; Pousset ridge, 9.25 (halts 53 min.); summit, 11.5 (halts, 20 min.) Left the summit, 1.25 P.M.; Cogne, 5.30 (about 40 min. halts). This is believed to be the first ascent of the peak.

BECCA DI MONCORVÉ (3,865 mètres=12,680 feet). *August 21.*—The same party on their way down the Grand Paradis ascended this point in a few minutes from the glacier. A fierce gale was blowing at the time; consequently the climb was made in great haste, and probably did not take more than 15 or 20 min. The view is decidedly interesting orographically, and luckily no snow was falling when the party were on the top, the Tresenta being perfectly clear. The ascent had been made on August 12 by Signor Vaccarone without guides.* It is perfectly easy.

Mont Blanc District.

AIGUILLE BLANCHE DE PEUTERET (4,108 mètres = 13,478 feet). *July 31.*—Mr. H. Seymour King, with Ambrose Supersax, Alois Andermatten, and Emile Rey, made the first ascent of this peak, in attempting which it will be remembered that Prof. Balfour and Petrus lost their lives in 1882.

Starting from a bivouac at the head of the Brouillard Glacier they crossed over the next morning to the Fresnay Glacier (being obliged to descend 2,000 feet), and ascended the peak by the northern face, the route being difficult, save an easy snow slope which led to the summit. 8½ hours (including halts) were consumed in the ascent from the bivouac, and 5 hours in the descent. The party returned to Cormayeur on August 1.

Monte Rosa District.

THE DOM FROM SAAS. *August 20.*—Mr. M. Carteighe, with Gabriel Taugwalder, of Zermatt, and Xavier Imseng, of Saas-Fee, ascended this peak by the east face, taking a route which is a variation of that taken by Messrs. A. and W. Puckle, September 3, 1875.†

Mr. Carteighe and his guides traversed the left arm of the Fee glacier to the foot of the great wall, where they formed a good gîte on

* *Rivista Mensile del C. A. I.*, 1885, p. 254.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. vii. p. 324.

the 19th. Next morning they climbed straight up the face, without deviating more than a few feet right or left, to the summit, which this year consisted of three slabs of rock projecting directly over the face. No falling stones or ice were met with, as was the case in Messrs. Puckle's ascent, though some fell down the couloirs to the right and left. The rock, though steep, was generally sound, and good climbing except at a point about 300 feet from the summit, where a pyramid of loose stones, perched on the face, had to be passed. The surmounting of this required much care, and caused considerable delay, as Imseng pulled one of the stones on himself, and passed it on to his Herr, who, at that moment, was last. Some little damage was done to both, and this had to be temporarily repaired before proceeding. Tangwalder, who led at the time, had got over without damage. With this exception, the expedition in the condition of the rocks this year may be pronounced both practicable and safe. Time, $8\frac{1}{2}$ hrs., including halts and two hours' very slow going by lantern-light, as it was thought desirable to start very early. This, however, as it turned out, was not necessary. The party descended to Randa by the usual route.

It will be remembered that Messrs. A. and W. Puckle slept on the rocks of the Eggfluh, followed the Nadeljoch route to the wall, and then struck the ridge about 50 yards north of the actual summit. The rock wall, both near the summit and at the foot, was this year almost entirely free of ice and snow, so the condition of the mountain was very different from that experienced by Messrs. Puckle, as a heavy fall of snow had fallen three days before their ascent, and their difficulties must have been greater than Mr. Carteighe encountered. Messrs. Puckle probably struck the wall at a point much higher than Mr. Carteighe's bivouac.

In the course of the expedition it was shown that the most direct and apparently easiest route from Saas-Fee to the top of the Dom lies from the Eggfluh by the Nadeljoch itself. Gabriel Tangwalder led with great judgment and boldness, and Xavier Imseng, though young, has the material for making a first-class guide.

MATTERHORN, ROUND AND OVER.—Starting at dawn from the hut on the Zermatt side above the Hörnli, one can cross the ridge into Italy, level with the hut, at the very base of the peak itself, and keeping always to the right skirt the foot of the precipices on hard *névé* to the Breil route in the Couloir du Lion, and in 2 h. from the Zermatt hut reach this route at a point $2\frac{1}{2}$ h. dead pull above Breil. Mr. J. T. Wills with J. Fournier, of Salvan, though both strangers to the S. side of the peak, in this way crossed the Matterhorn in 1884, and got back to Zermatt with great ease and many rests in 14 hours. The mountain was free from snow, and no stones fell at all in their hearing till 7 A.M. in the Couloir du Lion. If there is loose snow on the peak, or other likelihood of stones falling, the start must be made earlier. Reversing the round is out of the question. The advantage of thus returning to one's night's bivouac and picking up one's things in the afternoon while yet seeing both sides is obvious.

Bernese Oberland.

HINTER VIESCHERHORN (4,020 mètres=13,190 feet). *July 27.*—Herrn August Lorria and G. Lammer, of Vienna, made the first ascent of the highest point of this peak.* Starting from the Bergli hut, they crossed the Mönchjoch ridge E. of the point marked 3,560 mètres on the Federal map, and traversed the Ewig Schneefeld. Then they mounted to the left by crevassed snow slopes towards the foot of the gap between Gross and Hinter Viescherhorn, the gap being reached by a very steep ice wall in 5 hours from the hut. They then went along the upper névé of the upper Viescher Glacier to the E. ridge of the desired peak, and gained the summit in an hour from the gap by a steep snow slope and easy rocks. The point reached by Herr Hüberlin on July 14, 1871,† is about 50 mètres lower down and much farther south. They descended by the N.W. ridge to the gap in 20 min. and gained the Gross Viescherhorn in 40 min. more. This route up to the gap and up the Gross Viescherhorn had been already made by Mr. Coolidge on September 6, 1872.‡

KLEIN GRÜNHORN (3,927 mètres=12,884 feet). *August 13.*—The same party, without guides, made the first ascent of this peak. Starting from the new Bergli hut, they reached its foot in 1.35, then, passing through séracs, by rocks, snow, and ice, climbed to a long snow ridge which led them to the rocks under the summit. They then cut steps to the right, and by a very sharp snow ridge gained the top (3.35 from the foot). The descent by the same way took 1½ h.

KAMM (3,870 mètres=12,707 feet). *August 17.*—The same party, without guides, made the first ascent of this peak, starting from the Concordia hut, and in 1¼ h. reached the 'Innere Schönbühl.' Then they climbed up towards the small hanging glacier S.W. of the peak, encountering on the way serious difficulties on a serrated rock ridge. The glacier was reached 7½ hours after leaving the hut, and was climbed to the foot of the peak: the N.W. arête was then reached, and the summit easily won, 35 min. after reaching the glacier. The descent by a rather different route (more to the right) took 4 h. The view was very fine, but the peak is not easy.§

EIGER BY THE MITTELLEGI RIDGE. *August.*—Herr v. Kuffner, with Alexander Burgener and Biener, after an attempt along the ridge, in which they reached a far higher point than any of their predecessors, ascended the Eiger by the usual way from the Kl. Scheidegg, and succeeded in forcing their way down the formidable ridge, the night being spent out on the mountain.||

JUNGFRAU FROM THE ROTHAL. *September 21.*—Hitherto the ascent from this side has been made by several ways, all more or less dangerous, Herr Bischoff and V. Allmen having lost their lives there in 1872. On July 25, 1881, Herr Dübi found a new route up by the

* *Mittheilungen d. D. u. Ö. Alpenvereins*, 1885, p. 185.

† *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, vol. viii. pp. 157-162.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. vi. p. 147.

§ *Mittheilungen d. D. u. Ö. Alpenvereins*, 1885, 195.

|| *Oesterr. Alpenzeitung*, 1885, p. 222.

'rothe Brett' and Silberlautobel,* but not until this autumn was a comparatively easy and safe way struck out. This was done by five local guides (F. Graf, U. Brunner, R. Schlunegger, H. v. Allmen, and J. Stäger), with Herr Fritz v. Allmen. They started from the Club hut in the Roththal at 5 A.M. and climbed the rock ridge to the left. The rocks were found to be very sound and presented hardly any difficulties. It was not till the party were high above the Silberlücke that the snow was taken to. Instead of bending to the right to the Roththal Sattel, the party climbed straight up to the summit, striking the usual ridge about 10 min. from the top, which was reached at 1.30. Unless this route was exceptionally easy, owing to the absence of snow and the late period of the season at which the ascent was made, it seems probable that this is the shortest and easiest way from the Oberland side, and will therefore be frequently made in future. The party followed the 'inner' (S.W.) rock ridge from the hut, while Dr. Dübi climbed up the 'outer' (or W.), though his guide advised the 'inner' one.

Bernina District.

PIZ BERNINA BY THE ROSSO DI SCERSCEN ARÊTE. August 12.—Mr. W. Williams, with Schocher and Arpagaus as guides, left the Roseg Restaurant at 1 A.M. and followed the general direction taken by Mr. Wainwright on his ascent of August 15, 1880,† till about 6.15, when they were at the foot of the steep snow fields to the right of the bare rocks so prominent from the valley. Thence they worked their way up (chiefly over ice) to the sattel at the beginning of the long ridge which extends towards the Monte Rosso di Scerscen. From this point (reached at 11.45 A.M.) the arête was followed to the summit of Piz Bernina, which was gained in 1¼ hour more. Boval was reached by the ordinary way in 2½ hours. It is believed that this ridge had not been previously traversed.

Norway.

Mr. Russell Starr last August accomplished the following new expeditions in Norway.

(1) A NEW PASS OVER THE JUSTEDAL GLACIER.—Ascending from the Neu Sæter in the Langedal, in 4 hours' easy going from the névé, Mr. Starr and his guide, Johannes Vigdal, the schoolmaster at Solvorn on the Sogne-Fjord, reached the summit and glissaded down easy snow slopes for many hundred feet to Stardalen, sleeping at Gaarde Fond. 13½ hours were taken, but with the snow in good order 9 to 10 ought to suffice for a climber in training.

(2) A few days later, the same party, with Lars Jensen of Olden, starting at 4.15 A.M. from Bodal Sæter above Loen, climbed the Lödals Kaupe (c. 8,800 feet), the only great peak of the Justedal Glacier, by the very steep snow couloir leading up from the lake called Kaupe Vand (as suggested by Mr. Slingsby), and gained the summit at 10 A.M., after 5½ hours' actual walking. Leaving the top at 11.15, they again crossed the Justedal Glacier, and they descended by the great Nigaardsbrae (encountering some rock difficulties near the icefall),

* *Jahrbuch des S. A. C.*, vol. xvii. pp. 280-290.*

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. x. p. 100.

and gained Gaarde Kroken at 8.45 P.M., after having traversed Lödals Kaupe by a new way, and made a second new pass across the Justedal Glacier at its north-east end.

‘Lars Jensen is recommended as an excellent guide. Vidgal is fair on ice and snow, but a very indifferent leader on rocks, though he follows fairly well.

‘Thorgier Sulheim (a well-to-do farmer at Skjolden on the Sognefjord) is probably the best mountaineer in Norway.’

ALPINE NOTES.

WINTER MEETING AND DINNER.—The Annual General Meeting of the Club will take place on the evening of Tuesday, December 15; the Picture Exhibition and Dinner will be held on the following afternoon and evening. Gentlemen willing to lend pictures for exhibition are requested to communicate as soon as possible with the Hon. Secretary, W. F. Donkin, Esq.

THE CAUCASUS.—The travels in the Central Caucasus of MM. Dinnik and Iljin, referred to in our last number (p. 338), have been noticed in detail by Mr. D. Freshfield, in the September number of the ‘Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society.’ Mr. Freshfield desires to correct here the following erratum in his paper in the last number of the *Alpine Journal*: On p. 337, lines 13, 14, for ‘5,643 mètres (17,736 feet)’ read ‘5,375 mètres (17,636 feet).’ M. de Déchy writes to say that in the course of his last summer’s trip in the Caucasus (which was mainly undertaken for the purpose of making scientific observations and of taking photographs), he crossed, with natives, three glacier passes nearly 12,000 feet high, viz. the Tiper Pass from the Baksan Valley to the Nenskra Valley, a nameless pass between the latter valley and the Nakra Valley, and the Thuber Pass from Mujal in Svânetia to Tchehem. The last of these was suggested by Mr. Freshfield in these pages (xi. 473). M. de Déchy made many interesting topographical observations. We hope to publish an account of his wanderings (accompanied by a map) in an early number of this *Journal*. Very possibly M. de Déchy will send a complete series of his Caucasian photographs to the Club Picture Exhibition in December.

MOUNTAINEERING WITHOUT GUIDES.—Last summer parties climbing without guides have made some very remarkable ascents, but it is also to be noticed that three fatal accidents have taken place in the High Alps in the case of such parties. And hence, while recording the exploits of adventurous climbers, we are bound once more to insist on the necessity of very great caution and constant self-control, without which guideless climbing is likely to fall into disrepute, and a most admirable form of exercise would thus be condemned, owing to the carelessness of a few of the increasing number who find pleasure in such climbing. Herren O. and E. Zsigmondy and L. Purtscheller climbed the Bec de l’Homme, and forced the terrible E. ridge of the Meije, which had hitherto defied all attempts. Herren Schulz, Purtscheller, and Kellerbauer ascended the N. Aig. d’Arves, descended by a new way on its N. face, and the same day traversed the Central Aig. d’Arves; next day they crossed the S.W. ridge of the Southern