

was carried shoulder-high by some of the 'old guard' of the Oberland guides, many of whom had often accompanied Sir Francis among the mountains. His successor, Mr. Scott, C.B., the staff of his old legation, and some of his old colleagues and friends from Bern were present; the President of the Republic sent a representative, one of the greatest marks of respect it is possible for the Confederation to give and an honour they but rarely bestow. Many of the guides and country-folk, who will long remember Sir Francis' kindly greeting as he passed their châlets, came to pay a last tribute of respect. Each one of the sad group who stood around that grave shared in the same sorrow, and the words with which Pfarrer Strasser concluded his funeral address found an answering echo in every heart, 'Edler Freund unseres Vaterlandes, treuer Freund unseres Thales, gut sollst du hier ruhen. . . . Dein Andenken lebt fort und fort in vielen treuen Herzen.'

C. D. C.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS IN 1889.

It is a matter for congratulation that the list of accidents this year, at any rate above the snow-line, is but a short one, and that no English traveller has lost his life by a mountain accident.

On July 14 two of the three persons of which a party was composed were killed while on the way from the Sonnblick inn (10,181 feet) to the Hochnarr, or Hohen-Aar (10,690 feet), and Heiligenblut, along the ridge between Carinthia and the province of Salzburg. The party consisted of Herren S. Bernatschek and Andreas Klein, and of the guide Pichler, of Heiligenblut. They had reached a point just beyond the Pilatusscharte (9,515 feet), when the travellers at the Sonnblick inn saw the three climbers suddenly lose their footing and slide rapidly for 330 or 440 feet (100 or 150 mètres) down the steep snow-slopes falling to the Hohen-Aar Glacier, or Pilatus kees, on the Salzburg side of the ridge. Assistance was at once despatched. It was found that Pichler had been killed on the spot, Herr Klein surviving for a few minutes only, while Herr Bernatschek escaped with comparatively trifling injuries. From the account of the survivor (in the 'Oesterreichische Alpen-Zeitung' for July 26, pp. 180-1) it appears that Pichler had (without the knowledge of his Herren, who trusted entirely to him) taken an unusual but shorter way, so as to gain the Goldzeuscharte and Hochnarr more quickly, though the Sonnblick landlord had warned him against doing this. The guide slipped on a bit of ice projecting from under the soft snow, and, as they were all roped together, pulled his two companions out of the steps in the deep snow. None of the party had put on their 'Steigeisen,' or crampons, but it would seem that the guide neglected to cut steps in the ice, and when he slipped his Herren were unable to resist the shock of his fall. As the two travellers were firmly planted in deep snow, the fact that they had not put on their 'Steigeisen' is irrelevant. Pichler should certainly either have put

his on or have cut a step in the ice, and it seems clear that his carelessness was the sole cause of this sad accident.

On August 13, in uncertain weather, M. Robert Morel, of Lausanne, with the guide Maurice Gaudin, of Sion, started from the little inn on the Sanetsch Pass (between Sion and Saanen or Gessenay) at 9 A.M., with the intention of ascending the Oldenhorn (10,250 feet) and of descending to Ormonts Dessus by the Sex Rouge glacier, a perfectly easy and frequently undertaken excursion. At 10.55 they reached the edge of the great Zanfleuron glacier and halted for a few minutes to put on the rope. They then proceeded along the glacier, having recourse to map and compass to find their way, as the weather was getting worse and the mist was rapidly closing in upon them. They had been on the glacier for about 50 minutes when all of a sudden Gaudin fell into a crevasse, and, the rope not being taut between the two members of the party, M. Borel felt himself drawn nearer and nearer to the chasm. He planted his alpenstock firmly in the snow and clung to it with desperation. Gaudin called out six or seven times to M. Borel to pull him up, but made no effort to help himself. M. Borel managed to pull him up very slowly and cautiously, but could not raise him above the bit of the snow-bridge which had not fallen in. He therefore fastened the rope firmly round his alpenstock, still planted deep in the snow, cut the bit of rope by which he was tied, and approached the edge of the chasm, exhorting Gaudin not to lose courage. But no answer came from the guide, so, feeling certain that he was dead, and being much exhausted, M. Borel returned to the inn, which he regained at 2 P.M. A search party sent out at once was unsuccessful, the reason not being stated. Nothing was done on the 14th; on the 15th a party of persons without any experience of the mountains failed, and it was only on the 16th that M. Albert Franzoni (of whose narrative, printed in the 'Gazette de Lausanne' of August 21, this account is a summary), with M. Joseph de Lavallaz and four resolute companions, discovered the body. It was hanging about a yard down the crevasse, quite frozen, and the rope tightly fastened round the waist. Hat, knapsack, and ice-axe were wanting, and the coat was turned up over the head and arms. As the hands were quite free from bruises or scratches, it would seem that the poor fellow had made no effort to help himself. Death was probably due to cold and asphyxiation. M. Borel's narrative was confirmed in all points by the state of things discovered by the search party, and he seems to have done all that could be done unaided, although, unfortunately, he did not succeed in saving his guide's life.

These two accidents have several points in common. Neither occurred on any very lofty or difficult mountain—indeed, in both cases the scene of the fatal occurrence was not very far from a frequented inn, and a good path. Nor were the members of either party very experienced mountaineers. Both cases, too, seem, according to the published accounts, to belong to the very small class of fatal accidents in which the fault can be clearly proved to have lain with the guide of the party and not with the travellers. A traveller is often careless, and there

may be some excuse for him; but a guide is bound by his profession to be always on the look-out, and, unless overtaken by some unexpected fall from above, or a tempest, cannot be excused for carelessness, even though it be for a moment. In the Pilatusscharte case, the guide took a short cut, and neglected to cut steps in a bit of ice, steps being all the more necessary because this bit of ice came in the middle of a snow slope. In the Zanfleuron case, the guide either did not notice that his traveller was not keeping the rope taut between them, or neglected to warn him to do so. Thus, in both cases, well-recognised and obvious precautions were neglected by the leaders of the respective parties, and this neglect is rendered even less inexcusable by the fact that there were no great difficulties on the spots where the mishaps occurred. It is the foremost duty of a guide to be on the watch at all times, particularly when there seems to be no danger.

The remains of an unknown man were found last summer on the Vernagt Ferner (Oetzthal group) in a rather inaccessible place. Besides bones, there was discovered a passport bearing the date 1884, and the Christian name William, the surname being illegible, a flask with an inscription in English on it, and some small coins in a purse. The victim is believed to be an elderly travelling mechanic who was seen four years ago quitting the Hochjoch path at Rofen late in the afternoon, and who probably descended by the left bank of the Vernagt torrent to a spot where further progress was impossible. A violent storm and fall of snow no doubt hindered him from getting back on the right track, and he was frozen to death.

But though the fatal accidents above the snow-line are few in number this year, there has been an unusual succession of narrow escapes and adventures; perhaps due in part to the bad state of the snow, in consequence of the bad weather which prevailed throughout nearly the whole summer, but certainly also to carelessness and neglect of the ordinary well-tried precautions. M. and Madame Franciscique Gabet, of Lyons, fell with their guide into a crevasse while crossing the Alphubel Pass, and were only saved by the arrival of another party. Both travellers suffered very severe injuries. An English climber when making the ascent of the Piz Popena from the Cortina side with the guide Barbieri was carried down some way by a great rock, which gave way when grasped by his guide Barbieri; the guide sustained serious injuries to the head, but the traveller got off more easily. On August 13 a Viennese gentleman, when a little below the Cristallo Pass, after having made the ascent of Monte Cristallo, slipped on a steep snow-slope, and fell down headlong into a crevasse, from which his companion and his guide were luckily able to rescue him alive, though a good deal hurt. Two or three hours later one of three Viennese gentlemen, having made the same ascent without guides, slipped on precisely the same place, and sustained very severe injuries by striking against the rocks. On September 20 a German gentleman and the well-known guide, Peter Dangel, of Sulden,

were crossing the bergschrund at the base of the final peak of the Monte Cevedale, when the fresh snow gave way, and they were both thrown over the slope on the Cedeh Glacier side. Dangl was only slightly hurt, and was able to rescue his Herr, who had broken several ribs and hurt his wrist. The same day two German gentlemen and two Trafoi guides were carried away by the fresh snow giving under their feet just before they gained the upper plateau of the Ortler, and precipitated over a high icewall. The travellers were unhurt, but one of the guides, Johann Mazzagg, was rendered unconscious, and sustained internal injuries; while the other, Matthias Thöni, broke his right thigh. Luckily two parties had been detained in the Payerhütte by a violent storm, so that their guides were able to go to the rescue of their comrades, whom they were watching on their ascent. On September 3 a Pitzthaler guide, Alois Dobler, broke his collar bone in saving the life of an English traveller (one of a party of nine with eight guides), who, while on the way from Sölden to the Wildspitze, had slipped on a steep snow-slope between the Karlesferner and Retterbachferner. His injuries were due to having been thrown violently against the moraine after a rapid descent down the snow-slopes.

Without counting the numerous cases in which country people have perished while searching for edelweiss or other flowers, there have been several fatal accidents below the snow-line. A medical student from West Prussia, Herr Wladislaus Graducewsky, left the hamlet of Birkenstein alone at 4 P.M. on the afternoon of April 29 last to ascend the Wendelstein (6,067 feet). As he was not heard of again, search was made, and his body was discovered a week later. He had been overtaken by night, had lost his way, and had fallen over the Bockstein cliff into the mountain torrent in the Dickelgraben, half an hour below the little inn. On June 22 Lieutenant Stanislaus May was killed on the ridge between the Wilkopf (5,135 feet) and the Laffeldkopf, in the Salzburg Alps. A bit of rock gave way under his feet, and he fell over a precipice, being killed at once. He was engaged on the Government survey of the district, and was buried at Lofer, where he was well known both to natives and to visitors. On the evening of July 26 Herr Füssler, of Appenzell, having taken some refreshments at the Meglis Alp inn (4,856 feet), started thence, despite the unfavourable weather and the representations of the landlord, to mount to the inn on the Säntis (8,216 feet). He seems to have proceeded a little way beyond the Wagenlücke, but was unable to battle any longer with the elements. His frozen body was found on the 29th, lying on the path which he had not missed. On August 4 Herr Bösch, of St. Gallen, while making an excursion on the flanks of the Säntis, in the direction of the Staubernfirst, was attacked by faintness, became unconscious, fell over a rock-wall, and rolled down some grass slopes. His injuries did not seem to be severe, but he succumbed to them that night. The unfortunate gentleman is said to have been subject to such fainting fits, though his companions were not aware of this fact.

On August 7 a young man lost his life in the Stubai Alps in a rather mysterious fashion. Herr Martin Hertz, a law student from Breslau, made the acquaintance of a certain Herr Julius Blankensee, a 'Concertmeister' from Nürnberg, during the diligence journey from Innsbruck to Vulpmes. They agreed to join forces, and that night, with Johann Maier of Neustift (one of the licensed guides of the district), went up to sleep at the Nürnbergerhütte (7,710 feet). Next morning the three started at 5 A.M., and at 7 A.M. reached the Maier-spitze (9,109 feet). After a long halt, they started on their way to the Dresdenerhütte (7,874 feet), and for that purpose descended into a glen of the upper Sulzenauthal. This glen comes down from the Wilder Freiger to the little plain of Grünau, where it joins the main valley, which, from the Grünau plain, descends by a very steep rock step or precipice of 200 mètres (=656 feet) to the lower reach of the same valley.* Maier, the guide, had never passed this way before, and it was only after losing and finding the way several times that the party reached the stream coming from the Wilder Freiger glacier. Maier went off to look for the right way, but, on returning after a quarter of an hour's absence, found Herr Blankensee alone a little way from the spot where he had left his two travellers. Herr Blankensee assured Maier that Herr Hertz had crossed the stream and had disappeared in the mist. The guide then carried Herr Blankensee across the stream and searched for an hour for Herr Hertz, but in vain. The two then continued their way towards the Dresdenerhütte, but were benighted, and next morning returned to the Nürnbergerhütte, where Herr Blankensee made a short entry in the Travellers' Book, in which he made no mention of his comrade. Maier went down with him to Ranalt, where the guide made fruitless enquiries after Herr Hertz. In Neustift, Herr Blankensee paid him half his wages, and departed, asserting in Vulpmes that he had separated from his comrade. Maier narrated all the circumstances to the landlord in Neustift, but, owing to the absence of the *guide-chef*, no search party was organised. Some friends of Herr Hertz then arrived and employed guides to look for the unfortunate young man. His body was at last found, on September 4, on the steep rocks above the lower Sulzenau valley, between the Freigerbach and the Sulzenaubach. It was very much mutilated, but all Herr Hertz' valuables were found on it. A judicial enquiry is being made into the conduct of Herr Blankensee and the guide Maier, which may throw some light on this sad and mysterious occurrence.

On August 22 three young men crossed the easy pass of the Tuxerjoch (7,664 feet) from the Schmirnthal to the Zillertal, but two of them, brothers, named Skorpil (sons of an Innsbruck engine driver), lost their lives in a manner of which two different accounts are given. According to one authority they slipped while climbing some slopes in search of edelweiss. But according to the more detailed narrative they were overtaken by darkness; one

* See illustration No. 4 in Barth and Pfandner's classical work *Die Stubai'er Gebirgsgruppe hypsometrisch und orographisch bearbeitet* (Innsbruck, 1865), and the description on p. 85 of the same book.

slipped and fell down a precipice, injuring himself much, while his brother going to his aid slipped also, and was killed outright, the former succumbing later to his injuries. On September 3 Pfarrer K. Stach, of Pfronten, who had just taken part in the opening of a new club hut, was climbing up the Aggensteinspitze (6,506 feet), near Füssen, when shortly before reaching the summit he fell over a precipice of 650 feet, and died three-quarters of an hour after he was found by a friend, who had stayed behind to pick edelweiss. It is said that the fall was due to a stroke.

On September 29 three young men left Gstatterboden in unfavourable weather to ascend the Plan Spitze (6,946 feet) in Styria, by the difficult route of the Peterpfad. One soon turned back, but the others—Herr Karl Domenigg, of Gratz, and Herr Hans Wiesler, of Knittenfeld—pushed on. Herr Wiesler was particularly anxious to make the ascent, but became much exhausted in consequence of the bad weather and the difficulties of the climb over iced rocks. Not far from the summit he stayed a little way behind his companion, but the latter, coming back after an hour's absence, was unable to find him. He searched long in vain, and was forced to pass the night in a lonely hut—the Koinzenalm. Next morning he started again, and about half an hour from the hut found, in a very exhausted state, Herr Wiesler, who had been slowly following his tracks in the snow. Herr Domenigg made him as comfortable as possible in the hut, gave him all the provisions that were left, and, charging him not to leave the hut, went over to Johnsbach in search of help. Very bad weather prevented the relief party from setting off till the next morning, but they found only a bag in the hut, Herr Wiesler having started off by himself. It was only on October 3 that his body was found, not very far from the hut, in the direction of a precipice by a waterfall. He had missed the very difficult and rarely traversed path, had slipped and fallen down, and had probably been frozen to death, as the only severe injuries to the body were on the hands. Herr Wiesler, who was a bookkeeper at Knittenfeld, is said to have been an experienced climber.

The 'Standard' of October 20 contained the following telegram from Berlin:—

'Dr. Hadlich, a physician belonging to Pankow, a suburb of Berlin, who had been living for some weeks by the Lake of Geneva, started several days ago on an excursion in the Alps. He has not returned, and nothing has since been heard of him. It is feared that he has been surprised by the mist while up one of the mountains, and has lost his life while attempting to reach a place of safety.'

Some other deaths on the mountains may be recorded here, though they cannot be classed as Alpine accidents, properly speaking. On August 6 Herr C. Jellinghaus, of Halle, was descending, with two Hallstadt guides, from the Dachstein, through the Schwadring gorge to the Austriahütte. The rope had been taken off, as all difficulties had been left behind, when Herr Jellinghaus, while walking between his guides, fell forward on the leading one, and knocked him down, the two

rolling a little way together. The guide was only slightly bruised, but Herr Jellinghaus, a man of sixty years of age, was killed. He was a good walker, according to the report of his guides, and must have been seized with a sudden fit of illness, as he was not observed to slip, and the spot where the accident occurred is perfectly easy. On August 21 Herr Heinrich Willmann (son of Professor Willmann, of Prague), having made with a friend the ascent of the Rofan Spitze (7,405 feet) above the Achernsee, near Jenbach, was descending by the Hoch-Iss, and had nearly completed the expedition, when he was seized with faintness, and fell down dead. The cause is said to have been excessive fatigue. On September 1 Herr Raillard, of Basel, who had done much good work among the Swiss mountains, died suddenly while taking a walk near Amden, not far from Wesen (St. Gallen); and on September 3 Mr. J. F. Bottomley Firth, M.P. for Dundee, and deputy-chairman of the London County Council, died suddenly of heart disease a short distance beyond the little inn on the Flégère, near Chamonix.

NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1889.

[The expeditions recorded in the following pages are believed to have been made for the first time by English mountaineers. In cases where foreign climbers have preceded English travellers, references to the original accounts have, as far as possible, been given. The most remarkable first ascents made by foreign climbers during the past summer are also included.]

Dauphiné District.

SOMMET DE L'AILEFROIDE FROM THE WEST (3,925 mètres=12,578 feet).
BRÈCHE DES FRÈRES CHAMOIS (about 3,456 mètres = 11,319 feet).
August 3.—MM. Félix Perrin and A. Reynier, with Pierre Gaspard, père, Christophe Clot, and J. Turc, discovered a new route up this peak, though they did not quite attain the summit. Starting from the Carrelet club hut, they followed the usual route of the Col du Sélé for 1½ hrs. to the lower part of the Pilatte Glacier, beyond the Combe Rouge of M. Duhamel's map, and as far as the base of the rocks supporting a small round glacier on the W. flank of the peak which was named the 'Glacier Gris' (from the colour produced by the stones lying on it). Climbing up these rocky slopes by sheep tracks they gained the glacier, and crossed it towards the north to the rocky ridge dividing the Glacier Gris from a small elongated glacier, which is an affluent of the Glacier de la Coste Rouge (2½ hrs.). Ascending the S. side of this ridge diagonally by means of small rocky terraces and snow-bands, they attained (2½ hrs.) the Brèche des Frères Chamois, a deep cleft at the foot of a lofty rocky needle, just where the Ailefroide ridge joins that coming up from the Sommet du Sélé (3,320 mètres). Instead of effecting the perfectly easy descent from the pass down the extreme W. branch of the Glacier de l'Ailefroide, the party crossed the head of this branch glacier at a level, climbed over a rocky spur separating it from the final rocks of the Ailefroide, and by a number of