

man * considered it probable that the peak Mr. Clissold was thinking of was really the Breithorn, which would exactly agree with my conjectures. This is rendered even more probable by the fact that Mr. Clissold derived his information from Joseph Marie Couette, whom, by reason of his repeated ascents of Mont Blanc, we may assume to have been the guide of 1792 and 1813, and who may quite genuinely have supposed that the peak he climbed in 1813 was really Monte Rosa.†

ALPINE NOTES.

THE PUNTA BIANCA.—This fine peak (12,471 feet) is so overshadowed by its immediate neighbour the Grivola that it was long most undeservedly neglected. Mr. Frederick Gardiner and I went up it on August 12, 1889, and claimed 'provisionally' to have made the first ascent, since to my great surprise I could find out nothing about any previous visit to it.‡ Signor Vaccarone himself, even in the third edition of his useful 'Statistica delle Prime Ascensioni,' published in the spring of 1890, was not aware of any ascent save ours.§ All that was known about the peak up to the summer of 1890—with this one exception—was that Mr. Tuckett had spent the night of July 6-7, 1859 (on occasion of an attempt on the Grivola), on the lofty ridge between the peak and the Grivola, which he had reached (by traversing the S.E. face, W. arête, and N.W. face of the peak) from Val Savaranche and crossed to Cogne, naming his pass the Col de la Grivola. But it was certain from the text of his narrative,|| and still more from his accurate sketches,¶ that he had not mounted to the summit of the Punta Bianca.

And yet it is now ascertained beyond a doubt that the first ascent was made as far back as 1858, and had been duly recorded at the time in an Italian newspaper. This account is to be found in the narrative of the first attempt to reach the Grivola, printed in the *Feuille d'Aoste* of October 28, 1858, and reprinted (where I first came across it) on pp. 399-402 of Mrs. Cole's 'A Lady's Tour round Monte Rosa' (London: 1859).** The Punta Bianca was thus first ascended on September 21, 1858, by Monsieur P. B. Chamonin, the curé of Cogne,

then continues with the following remarkable statement, as to which one would like to know more.] 'Buonaparte had a column of wood raised, respectively, on Mont Blanc, Mont Rosa, and Mont Buet, for the purpose of facilitating surveys. These columns were erected several years since; but, as they are now invisible, it is supposed that they have been swept away by avalanches.'

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. Appendix on 'Modern Mountaineering,' p. 30.

† As to the way in which the name 'Monte Rosa' was applied to different peaks, see my *Swiss Travel*, pp. 316, 317.

‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. pp. 483-4. § See No. 351.

|| *Peaks, Passes and Glaciers*, 2nd series, vol. ii. pp. 295, 297, 310.

¶ *Ibid.* pp. 268, 309, and particularly that on p. 286.

** *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. p. 56.

and A. J. Jeantet, who, starting from Cogné, crossed the Col des Rayes Noires and traversed the S.E. face of the peak to the W. arête, by which they mounted to the summit (9 hours from Cogné). They descended along the N. arête to the Col de la Grivola, and then made an unsuccessful attempt on the Grivola. This is, of course, the first recorded ascent, so that ours in 1889 can only claim notice as having been made by a new and more direct route, along the E. arête, our descent having been made (like M. Chamonin's) to the Col de la Grivola, whence we regained the Trajo glacier by Mr. Tuckett's route.

It often happens that, after a long period of neglect, a peak is reached several times in quick succession, and thus the Punta Bianca was ascended once more in 1890, and by yet a new route. Signor Giovanni Bobba, with his guide Casimir Thérissod, started on July 17 from the upper Leviona chalets, and climbed straight up the S.E. face by rocks and snow patches direct (5 hours) to the summit of the peak, thus crossing at right angles M. Chamonin's and Mr. Tuckett's route up to the W. arête. He thence descended to the Col de la Grivola, and then succeeded in ascending the Grivola by the route Mr. Tuckett tried, that is, by its S. arête, finding the rocks in parts very difficult, and taking nearly 6 hours (with halts) from the Punta Bianca to the Grivola. Descending by the usual route to the Trajo glacier, this indefatigable Italian climber and his guide mounted the Punta Nera, whence by a new route down the S. arête they descended to the Col des Rayes Noires, and regained Leviona $17\frac{1}{2}$ hours after having left it, and after a very well filled day. I am indebted for these particulars to Signor Bobba, who will no doubt publish in due course a full account of this and other ascents, but whose outline itinerary alone has as yet appeared in print.* To make matters as to the Punta Bianca quite clear, I add a summary of the routes hitherto made up and down it:—

1858 party up W. arête, down N. arête.

1889 party up E. arête, down N. arête.

1890 party up S.E. face, down N. arête.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

LYSKAMM FROM THE N.E.—In the 'Oesterreichische Alpen-Zeitung,' Nos. 319, 320, Mr. L. Norman-Neruda gives a detailed account of this expedition.† As there has been some misunderstanding about the exact line taken by the party (consisting of himself, with the guides Chr. Klucker, of Sils, and Josef Reinstadler, of Sulden) it may be mentioned here that a lipe drawn from the summit of the Lyskamm to the Fillarhorn lies along the rib of rock by which the ascent was made. For the benefit of anyone who may wish to repeat it, he says that an improvement on their route would be to follow the way to the Lysjoch as far as point 3722 before turning to the right to cross the Grenz-gletscher. It should be added that the date of the expedition was August 9, not August 2.

MONTE GIBALBA.—A CORRECTION CORRECTED.—Mr. Norman-Neruda writes: It will be remembered that in my list of 'New Expeditions

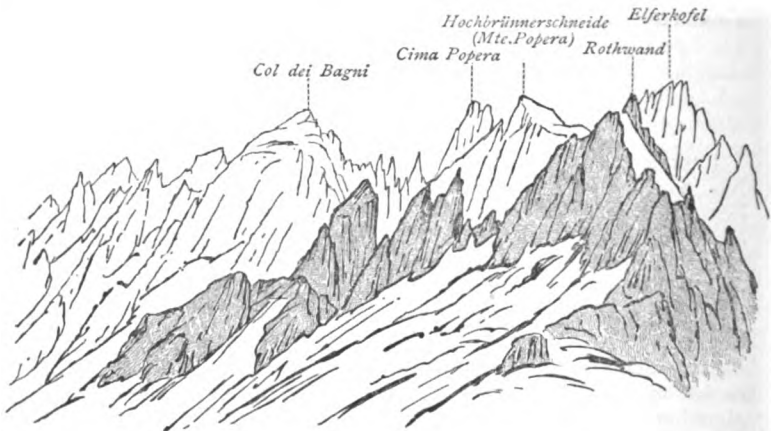
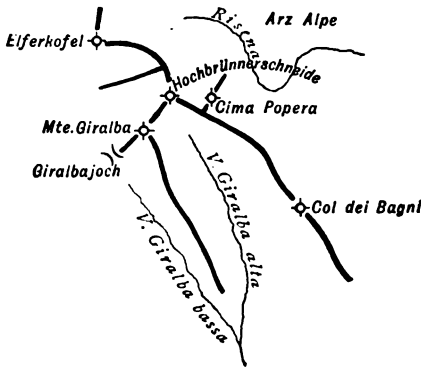
* *Rivista Mensile C.A.I.*, 1890, p. 361.

† See p. 307.

in 1890 I claimed to have made the first ascent of Monte Giralba,* a peak in the so-called Sexten dolomites. It appeared, however, that

Mr. Holzmann had carried out the ascent in 1872, and in the February number a correction of my statement was made.† But on reading through Mr. Holzmann's description in vol. vii. I found that the peak he described could not possibly be the one I had climbed in 1890, for the latter is south-west from the Hochbrunnnerschneide, whereas Mr. Holzmann's is south-east from it. After some correspondence with him

and the President of the Oesterr. Alpen Club, I find there is now no doubt that my statements in the November number of the 'Alpine Journal' are perfectly correct, and that Mr. Holzmann ascended a peak for which the name 'Cima Popera' has now been adopted; my peak, which, as I have said, is a different one, being that which at present is known, and will be designated on the new survey, by the name Monte Giralba. This Cima Popera was ascended (as they believed, for the first time) in the last summer by one of the gentlemen who accompanied me on the ascent of Monte Giralba, and two friends. A



description of their route will be published in the next number of the 'Mittheilungen.'

The accompanying outline sketch and map by Dr. Diener, which he

* See p. 315.

† See p. 369.

very kindly allows us to reproduce, will make the matter clearer than any verbal description. The view is taken from the Hollbrucker Spitze, on the other side of the Sexten Thal. Mr. Norman-Neruda's Monte Giralba is hidden by the Hochbrunnernschneide; Mr. Holzmann's (now Cima Popera) is seen to the left of that peak.

GROSSHORN.—In a footnote on p. 311 of the present volume of the 'Alpine Journal' attention was drawn to the account given in Studer's 'Ueber Eis und Schnee,' vol. iv. p. 78, of an ascent of this mountain, made by Herr Wyss from the Schmadrijoeh on July 29, 1875.

Studer states that the party left the Schmadrijoeh, traversed the S. side of the Grosshorn till they reached the Mittagjoeh, and arrived at the summit from the latter point. They then returned by the reverse route and reached the Schmadrijoeh in three hours from the time at which they left it. As the party in this traverse must have crossed the easy S. arête by which the two recorded subsequent ascents have been made, and as it seemed difficult to see why they should have gone to the Mittagjoeh at all, it appeared that some serious error must have crept into Studer's account. The difficulty has been cleared up by Dr. Dübi, who himself made the first ascent of the mountain (September 9, 1868), and accompanied Herr Wyss as far as the Schmadrijoeh on the occasion of the second ascent (July 29, 1875). Dr. Dübi writes, 'Es liegt offenbar ein Irrtum meines seither verstorbenen Freundes Wyss zu Grunde. Seine Darstellung ist in meinem Aufsatz im "Jahrbuch des S.A.C.," Bd. xi., und von da in Studer's "Ueber Eis und Schnee," Bd. iv., Seite 78, übergegangen, ohne dass weder ich noch Studer den Irrtum bemerkten. Es kann bei den gebrauchten Zeiten, die feststehen, und bei der Beschaffenheit des Grosshorns und der Entfernung des Mittagjoehs keine Rede davon sein, dass meine Gefährten, Herr Wyss mit zwei Führern, bis in das Mittagjoeh gekommen seien; es ist vielmehr anzunehmen, dass sie vom Schmadrijoeh zunächst in nordöstlicher Richtung über Felsen und Schnee aufsteigend den Kamm erreichten; dann unter demselben, der überwächet war, in der südlichen Schneewand traversirten, den Südkamm etwas unter der Spitze, wo auch Ihre Photographie eine Einsattelung zeigt, erreichten, und über diesen zum Gipfel emporstiegen — rückweg der Gleiche. Wäre Herr Wyss bis zum Mittagjoeh gegangen, so hätte er durch die Felsen der Ostflanke des Grosshorns klettern müssen, wovon er nichts sagt. Sein Irrthum kommt offenbar von unrichtiger Benutzung der Karte und undeutlicher Erinnerung.' *

* [Freely rendered: 'It obviously rests on an error on the part of my late friend Wyss. His description is given in my article (vol. xi. of the *Jahrbuch*), and was thence transferred to *Ueber Eis und Schnee*, vol. iv., without the error being noticed by either myself or Studer. Looking to the times, as to which there is no doubt, and to the conformation of the Grosshorn and the distance of the Mittagjoeh, it is out of the question that my companions, Wyss and the guides, can have reached the last-named point. We must rather assume that they reached the ridge directly from the Schmadrijoeh, climbing in a N.E. direction over rocks and snow, then traversed the southern snow-wall below the cornice till they reached the S. ridge a little below the peak, and climbed

In the note on p. 311 for 'the first,' read 'an.' The *first* ascent was that of Dr. Dübi and Herr Ober, September 9, 1868.*

G. STALLARD.

GRAND COMBIN.—Mr. C. F. Judson, of Philadelphia, sends the following account of a variation on Route 1c of the 'Pennine Guide':—On October 12, 1890, I ascended the Grand Combin from the Chalets of Valsorey, Michel Genoud and Omer Balley, of Bourg St. Pierre, being my guides. Genoud gave me to understand that our route, from a point about 12,300 feet high as far as the col between the west and highest summits, had never been taken before. The point at which this new portion of our ascent began was a little rocky platform overlooking the Col des Maisons Blanches (12,005 feet) and the Glacier de Corbassière. In no place was any great difficulty encountered, though a few nasty corners (which only offered a precarious foothold from the rotten condition of the rocks) had to be turned. In several places the smooth rocky buttresses overhung a precipice of 2,000 feet or more. From the little platform (12,300 feet) to the west summit (13,800 feet) there was approximately only 1,500 feet to be ascended. It took us two and a half hours, however, to accomplish this short distance, for in many places only one of us could move at a time. Towards the upper part of the arête a smooth rock-wall, which fortunately was solid, caused us some trouble, as it decidedly overhung its base. But the ledges though narrow were good. Genoud climbed finely, and I was well satisfied with his conduct throughout our expedition, which lasted nearly twenty hours; he always proved steady, courageous, and reliable.

WINTER EXPEDITIONS: ENGADINE.—The *St. Moritz Post* records that a party consisting of Mrs. Main and Mr. Bulpett, accompanied by the Pontresina guides, Martin Schocher and Martin Weibel, quitted the Morteratsch Restaurant at mid-day on Thursday, February 19, and reached the Boval hut at 5.30 P.M., the route taken being that by the glacier; the snow was in bad order.

On Friday the party left the hut at 2.20 A.M. and made for the rocks below the Festung. The snow was extremely bad until the upper slopes were reached, where it was hard and firm. The Bellavista saddle was reached at 9.30 A.M. and left at 10 A.M., the central and highest peak of Piz Palü being gained at 11.30. The ridge was in an excellent state and the rocks free from ice. From the highest peak to the third peak took more than 1½ hour, owing to the icy condition of the ridge and the consequent step-cutting. After spending some time on the third peak, the climbers left it at 2 P.M. and all went well till they were within a few feet of the point at which the ridge is generally finally quitted. Here an enormous bergschrund had split the slope asunder, and the party were forced on to the Italian side of the arête in order to turn it. The slope was of smooth blue ice, and

this to the summit, returning the same way. If Herr Wyss had been to the Mittagjoch he would have had to climb the rocks on the E. side of the Grosshorn; and of this he says nothing. His mistake clearly arose from inaccuracy in the use of the map and indistinct recollection.]

* *Ueber Eis u. Schnee*, vol. i. p. 253.

took nearly an hour's hard work in step-cutting before it could be descended, though the distance was only about 30 feet. From here the only trouble was caused by the bad state of the snow, which was in the worst possible order the whole way down to the Bernina high road. The houses were reached at 10 P.M., and St. Moritz regained a little before midnight.

The day was warm and still, and the thermometer readings were as follows:—Boval, 8 P.M. Thursday, 26.6°. Friday, 2 A.M. 10.4°. Summit of Piz Palù, 19.4°. (The thermometer was suspended to an ice axe between two rocks, and was consequently in rather an exposed situation.)

This is the first time that the three peaks have been crossed and the highest peak of Piz Palù has been ascended in winter. In February 1890 Messrs. Wainwright and Bulpett reached the third peak from the Bernina houses, returning in their tracks, and employing 18 hours for the expedition. They were unfortunate in having very cold weather.

GRAND PARADIS.—The ascent of this peak by Dr. Güssfeldt on January 25 last, though not the first that has been made in winter, deserves record as a remarkable performance. From an account contributed by the guide Séraphin Henry to the *Rivista* (p. 18), it would appear that Dr. Güssfeldt, with Emile Rey, David Proment, and two porters, succeeded, after two false starts, in getting off from the Rifugio Vittorio Emanuele a few minutes before midnight on the 24th, reached the summit at 4.30, remained there twenty minutes with a temperature of -17° ($= 1.4^{\circ}$ Fahr.), and returned to the Rifugio at seven, thus accomplishing the whole excursion before sunrise. They were, however, favoured with a brilliant moon.

NEW ZEALAND.—Since the Rev. W. S. Green, with Boss and Kaufmann, made his memorable ascent (and descent) of Mount Cook, several attempts have been made to gain the summit, but all ended in failure. Last December, however, an attempt was made by Messrs. Mannering and Dixon, of Christchurch, New Zealand, and was so far successful that they managed to get within 140 feet of the top.* Had time permitted they would no doubt have succeeded in reaching the actual summit. The mountain, however, was not in the best order, the snow being very soft in places. Messrs. Mannering and Dixon have been trying for the last five years to conquer Mount Cook, but owing to various difficulties they had not previously succeeded in reaching a higher altitude than 9,000 feet.

On December 29 Messrs. Harper and Blakiston went for three hours and a half up the Hooker glacier from the Hermitage, making a camp, from whence they hoped to make the ascent of the saddle at the head of the glacier, in order to ascertain if a pass to the West Coast existed at this point. The upper part of the Hooker glacier has never before been visited. On December 30, starting at 6.30 A.M., and walking over slopes, on which the snow was very soft, for eight hours, they

* A full account of this expedition will be found in the *Field* of February 21 last.

reached an almost sheer wall of ice upwards of 250 feet high, with an awkward bergschrund along the base. Almost immediately on crossing this bergschrund it was found necessary to cut steps to the top of the saddle as the ice wall was almost perpendicular for 180 feet or so, rounding off in the last 60 feet. Mr. Harper led the way up, cutting 110 steps, and at 3 P.M. the ridge was reached. The view on the West Coast side was somewhat obscured by the clouds which appeared below, but the sea could just be seen in the North-West. The saddle was not (like most of the West Coast saddles) precipitous on the other side, but the snow sloped gently down as far as the clouds, and it is believed, from what could be seen, that an Alpine pass might be made over to the coast by this saddle. After descending a short way towards the coast, and finding that, even if time permitted, the fog below would have prevented further progress, the party returned to the top, and left a record in the shape of a cairn and bottle on the rocks to the left of the saddle. The return journey was easy until near the last slope, in which some ten crevasses had either opened or had their snow bridges broken in, owing to the intense heat prevailing during the day. These, however, gave a good deal less trouble than had been anticipated, and the camp was regained at 7.30 P.M.

The present map of the Hooker glacier was found to be slightly incorrect as to the head basin of the glacier, which will have to be shown a trifle larger, and also because Mount Hector (which does not appear on the map) was seen rising perpendicularly out of the head basin.

This ascent would probably be very difficult, and, in fact, almost impossible later on in the summer, owing to the crevasses being more open. The ascent of St. David's Dome seemed quite practicable from the saddle. Had the weather been at all settled, the party think they might have succeeded in reaching the coast, but, owing to the clouds below, it was almost impossible really to form an idea whether the descent to the coast would be practicable.

Alpine climbing is finding much favour among New Zealanders, and there is talk of starting a New Zealand Alpine Club.

The Government, too, are spending thousands of pounds in opening up tracks through the principal mountain passes, so that tourists and Alpine climbers will not have to encounter the difficulties and dangers which have hindered them hitherto.

THE SACRO MONTE OF VARALLO.—Will you kindly allow me to bring under the notice of the numerous readers of the 'Alpine Journal' that a committee has been formed at Varallo-Sesia with the object of celebrating in proper form, in September next, the fourth centenary of the 'Sacro Monte'?

JOHN B. CAMASCHELLA.

THE ACCIDENTS OF 1890.—We learn that the sum collected by the C.A.I. for the lost guides, Carrel, Maquignaz, and Castagneri, had by the end of March amounted to about 416*l.* (10,400*f.*), and that, in addition, 300*f.* have been received from the Queen of Italy.

SOCIETÀ DEGLI ALPINISTI TRIDENTINI.—The head-quarters of this club for the two years beginning March 15, 1891, are at Rovereto; the office in the Corso Rosmini. Members of all Alpine Clubs have free access to the library for purposes of reference; but no publications

can be borrowed without special leave of the committee. The secretary is Dr. Angelo Pinali.

GRAND HOTEL, CERESOLE REALE.—This hotel, of which earlier reports were not quite satisfactory, was last year admirably kept. The prices charged were reasonable, and the table was admirably supplied from Turin. I spent three weeks there most pleasantly.

ALFRED WILLIAMS.

HUTS, &c.—A new hut has been opened on the Aletsch Glacier, at the base of the Fusshörner. It is about one hundred feet above the glacier, $1\frac{1}{4}$ hr. below the Beichgrat, and a little below the bend of the glacier at point 2,607. It is very well fitted up, and conveniently situated for the ascent of the Aletschhorn and Gross Nesthorn.

The *St. Moritz Post* states that a small restaurant will be opened next summer on the Diavolezza Pass by Christian Grass, jun. If sleeping accommodation is provided, it will prove very useful to those wishing to ascend Piz Palù or Piz Cambrena, and to make other excursions in the neighbourhood.

THE COOLINS.—Mr. C. Pilkington wishes it to be known that he has had a map of the Coolin Hills, Skye, reproduced by John Heywood & Co., Deansgate, Manchester, who will supply it, post free, for 6d. The map wants further correcting, but it is more correct than the Ordnance, and might help others to correct still more.

THE LIBRARY.—The following additions have been made since February 16, 1891 :—

Books.

- Fornier (Marcellin). *Histoire Générale des Alpes Maritimes ou Cottiennes.* 2 vols. 8vo. Paris, 1890-91.
- Meyer (Dr. Hans). *Ostafrikanische Gletscherfahrten: Forschungsreisen im Kilimandscharo-Gebiet.* 8vo. Maps and Plates. Leipzig, 1890.
- *Baedeker (K.). *Southern France, from the Loire to the Spanish and Italian Frontiers, including Corsica.* 8vo. Maps. 1891. (Presented by the Publishers.)
- Lloyd (Major Sir William), Gerard (Capt. Alex.), and Gerard (J. G.) *Narrative of a Journey from Caunpoor to the Boorendo Pass, in the Himalaya Mountains; Attempt to penetrate by Bekhur to Garoo and the Lake Manasarowara; Visit to the Shatool and Boorendo Passes.* 2 vols. 8vo. Maps. London, 1840.
- Metcalfe (Rev. Fred.) *The Oxonian in Iceland.* 8vo. Map and Plates. London, 1861.
- *Smithsonian Institution. *Annual Report of the Board of Regents for the Years ending June 30, 1887, and June 30, 1888.* 4 parts. 8vo. Maps and Plates. Washington, 1890.
- *Sella (Vittorio) e Vallino (Domenico). *Monte Rosa e Gressonev.* Obl. 4to. Plates. Biella, 1890. (Presented by the Authors.)
- **Rapida Escursione Alpina nel Bellunese.* Edita a cura del C.A.I. Sezione di Agordo. Obl. 8vo. Photographs. Trento, 1888. (Presented by the Club.)
- Hayden (John). *Sketch of a Tour in Switzerland.* 16mo. London, 1859
- *Diener (Carl). *Der Gebirgsbau der Westalpen.* 8vo. Maps. Wien, 1891, (Presented by the Publishers)

* Presented.

■ ■ 2

Photographs, &c.

- *Panorama of Murchison Glacier and Malte Brun Range, New Zealand. (Presented by G. E. Mannering, Esq.)
- *The Matterhorn from the Riffel Alp, December 26, 1890. C. T. Dent, phot. (Presented by C. T. Dent, Esq.)
- *The Dom and Täschhorn from the Hörnli path, December 24, 1890. C. T. Dent, phot (Presented by C. T. Dent, Esq.)
- *Portrait of Horace Benedict de Saussure. (Presented by M. Henri de Saussure.)

Maps.

- *Andorra, constructed by F. H. Deverell, 1890. Based on the scale of the French Ordnance Survey map, 1 = 80,000 (Presented by the Constructor.)
- *Geologische Karte des Karwendelgebirges herausgegeben vom deutschen und oesterreichischen Alpenverein. Entworfen von A. Rothpletz unter Mitwirkung von W. Clark u. a.

ALPINE JOURNAL BACK NUMBERS.—The following numbers may be obtained on applying to the Assistant Secretary at the Alpine Club Rooms, 8 St. Martin's Place, W.C.: 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 16, 39, 50, **53**, 54, 57, 69, 73, 84, **85**, 87, 88, 89, **90**, 91, 92, 93, 97, **100**. The Editor has also Nos. **70**, **86**, and 109; and vols. **xiii.** and **xiv.**

Those indicated by black type are out of print.

The following numbers are required by members to complete their sets. Offers to be addressed to the Assistant Secretary: 21, 63, 64, 66, 67, 71, 72, 79, 86, 94, 101; also vol. iii.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Story of the Nations—Switzerland. By Lina Hug and R. Stead.
(London: T. Fisher Unwin.)

Switzerland and the Alps are not identical or convertible terms, though it is to be feared that many persons think them so. Still, the Alps have, no doubt, had a good deal to do with making Switzerland what it is politically and nationally. This being so, we rather wonder that the authors of the book before us have so little to say about them. With the exception of a page or two on Suwarrow's campaign, there is hardly a word from which the reader would gather that any rising ground exists in Switzerland. Of course, for obvious reasons, few of the important events in Swiss history have taken place in the higher Alps; but the 'story' of a nation can hardly be thought complete which takes no notice of the first subject which comes into everyone's mind on hearing its name. However, this feature, or its absence, practically removes the book from the category of those with which the 'Alpine Journal' is concerned; nor does the introduction of a few exceedingly poor mountain views, quite unconnected with the text, help the matter. As a political history of Switzerland, and an account of how the federation of states became the federated state, it has its merits.

* Presented.