

It was on the Grenzgifel that his party left a handkerchief under a stone, and then they went on to the Ost Spitze. Despite this very clear description, the two points seem later to have been jumbled together. The Siegfried map marks the Grenzgifel accurately, and gives it the height of 4,631 mètres, as against 4,638 given to the Hchste Spitze. This is just as it should be. The new Italian map in a slovenly way confounds the two points, placing the Hchste Spitze on the frontier ridge, perhaps in hopes of being able to claim half of it, in defiance of all topography. Climbers ascending Monte Rosa from Macugnaga or from the Zumstein Sattel must pass over the Grenzgifel; those coming from the Silber Sattel strike the highest ridge just W. of the Grenzgifel, and need not climb it unless they please.

One small point remains to be settled. Granted that the 1848 and 1851 parties climbed the Grenzgifel, what point was ascended by the three English parties in 1854? It is generally assumed that they all climbed the Ost Spitze, but I think we must distinguish between them.

Mr. D. S. Bird on July 1854 reached a point 100 feet below the summit, and this (allowing for a vague estimate of the height) must, I think, mean the Grenzgifel only. On the other hand, I am of opinion that Messrs. G. and C. Smyth on September 1, Mr. E. S. Kennedy's guide on September 8, and Mr. E. S. Kennedy himself on September 11 one and all reached the Ost Spitze, though why they did not cross the not at all difficult ridge to the Hchste Spitze I cannot make out.

Hence my conclusions are that the Grenzgifel was climbed in 1848, 1851, and July 1854, and the Ost Spitze in September 1854, while Messrs. Pendlebury and Taylor's party climbed them both in 1872.

The original authorities from which I have got the information utilised above are: (1) For *Ulrich's* party, 'Mittheilungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Zrich,' i. 319-320 (1849); Ulrich's 'Die Seitenthler des Wallis,' 69-71 (1850); 'Berg- u. Gletscherfahrten,' i. 260-263 (1859). (These accounts vary slightly and are here placed in the order in which they were published.) (2) For *Schlagintweit's* party, the work by the two brothers, entitled 'Neue Untersuchungen ber die physikalische Geographie und die Geologie der Alpen' (Leipzig: 1854), pp. 77-78. (3) For *the English parties of 1854*, the *second edition* (the section does not appear in the first) of Messrs. Hudson and Kennedy's 'Where's there a Will there's a Way' (London: 1856), pp. 122 sqq.

## ALPINE NOTES.

THE PUNTA DELL' ARGENTERA.—This peak (10,827 feet), the loftiest summit of the Maritime Alps, was first ascended on August 18, 1879, by Mr. Coolidge, who explored the whole of the highest ridge, climbing its three highest points.\* On all these his guides built cairns, his

\* *Alpine Journal*, vol. ix. pp. 340-1.

card (in an empty preserved-meat tin) being left in that on the central point. This card was found in 1888 by an Italian party,\* but the tin was empty in 1890. Several parties of climbers, Italian and French, have, since 1879, reached various points on the Argentera ridge; but their narratives were far from clear, owing to mist and other causes, so that from them it was impossible to determine the precise summit attained in each case. The latest number (No. 11) of the 'Bulletin de la Section des Alpes Maritimes du Club Alpin Français' (pp. 50-55) contains a short paper, by M. Maubert (who in 1889 twice gained the S., or highest peak, and in 1890 that on which is the tin), which clears up matters considerably. He has made careful investigations into the whole question, and his conclusions may be summed up under two heads:—

(1) There are properly two main summits on the highest ridge of the Argentera, of which the S.-most is distinctly the highest, while the N.-most is that on which the tin and card were left in 1879 (Mr. Coolidge's 'central peak'). Mr. Coolidge's N. peak is still lower, and does not deserve any special name, having been reckoned and climbed only in order to complete the exploration of the mountain.

(2) The S. and higher summit has been attained in 1879 and 1889 only, other parties having merely reached the N. peak or some lower point. The former summit is considered by M. Maubert to be rather S. of the figures 3,300 mètres on the Italian map, and its height (according to that gentleman's observations) is 3,317 mètres (10,883 feet).

COL DU TOUR NOIR.—I have received, by the kindness of the author, a copy of a paper from the 'Echo des Alpes,' entitled 'Le Col du Tour Noir—second passage (premier du côté suisse), le 28 juillet, par H. George Fordham.' Judging by the photograph appended to the paper, on which Mr. Fordham has marked his route, I believe that his party crossed the ridge a good way to the S. of the original pass. When I saw the head of the Glacier de Saleinaz for the second time in September, 1867, I was unable to identify the point where we crossed the ridge in 1863, or our exact line of descent. At that season the bergschrund was utterly impassable, and the whole wall looked so icy that it would have been probably impossible to cut steps enough during a day to ascend it. But my impression was then, and always has been, what Mr. Fordham's experience confirms, that, assuming the bergschrund to be passable from below, and the surface not all hard ice, the wall might be ascended with very severe labour almost anywhere, and that no line of ascent was likely materially to diminish the labour. I do not think the Col can be identified with any certainty from the Saleinaz side, but anyone who cared to go up from the Glacier d'Argentière could easily verify it. The Col is not far south of the Aiguille d'Argentière, perfectly easy of access, and from the level of the glacier looks a marked pass. I remember that we saw another simi'ar gap, a little way to our right, or further S., and apparently a trifle higher, which we intended to have tried, had our first venture proved unsatisfactory. This may have been the point at which

\* *Rivista Mensile del C.A.I.*, 1888, p. 305.

Mr. Fordham's party crossed. Substantially the two passes are the same. But in these days of microscopic differentiation of new routes, Mr. Fordham may, I think, claim, if he pleases, to have made a new pass.

HEREFORD B. GEORGE.

P.S.—I should like to repeat my protest against the change which the Swiss have introduced into the spelling of the name of the pass. In 1863 we called it *Col de la Tour Noire*, the adjacent peak being, as we understood, so named with very reasonable appropriateness. No doubt the masculine form is found in the not far distant *Aiguille* and *Glacier du Tour*, but I have never been able to discover any significance in the word. Moreover, if there is a *Col du Tour* within a few miles, all the more reason for letting the other bear a more distinctive name.

GÜSSFELDT SATTEL.—On August 11, 1890, Messrs. J. H. Wainwright, B. Wainwright, and E. J. Garwood, with the guides Martin Schocher and H. C. Grass, crossed the Güssfeldt Sattel (*Fuorcla Roseg*). Leaving Pontresina at 12.10 A.M. the foot of the Sattel was reached at 7. At 7.50 Schocher started alone to begin the step-cutting (which was expected to be a very long business), the rest of the party remaining at the base of the great bergschrund till 8.30, when they followed, but did not overtake Schocher until just at the top, which they all reached together at 9.40.

The points in this expedition were:—

1. The remarkably good and quick performance of Schocher, who cut up the whole of the ice wall by himself in less than two hours.
2. That it is believed to be the first time the Sattel has been crossed in one day, former parties having had the steps cut by the guides one or more days before.

There was a slight crust of hard snow on the ice, otherwise the short time taken on the wall would have been impossible. The return was made by the Sella Pass, and Pontresina regained at 6.30 P.M.

INUNDATION IN THE MARTELL THAL.—The Martell Thal, well known to most tourists who have approached the Ortler Group from the direction of Meran, has, for the third time in four consecutive summers, been ravaged by the bursting of a glacier lake. The damage done this time seems to have exceeded that of the previous occasions very considerably. The disaster is due to the blocking by the *Zufall Ferner* of the water coming from the neighbouring *Langen Ferner* and the ultimate giving way of the ice-dam. On the present occasion the gradual increase of the lake was watched, and warning was given by smoke signals as soon as the catastrophe occurred, in time to allow cattle and portable property to be got into a place of security; but in Gand, the chief village of the valley, a large part of the population are houseless. From the account given in the '*Mittheilungen des D.Oc.A.V.*' for June 30 (No. 12 of the current series), it would appear that the outburst of the enclosed water took place about midday of June 17. In a little over an hour the flood had reached Gand, wrecking houses and utterly destroying crops and gardens. The *Statthalter* of Tyrol, and Count *Wolkenstein*, the *Bezirkshauptmann* of Meran, had a narrow escape. They had been at the glacier in the

course of the morning and returned to Gand, no immediate outbreak being expected. They took their midday meal in the little inn, and had scarcely left the house when the torrent came down. In a few minutes the inn, which stands close to the stream, was in ruins, and the water flowing over its site. A full account of last year's inundation by Dr. Finsterwalder, of Munich, with copious and clear illustrations, will be found on p. 21 and the following pages of the 'Zeitschrift' for 1890.

It is to be hoped that before next summer the resources of engineering skill will be able to cope with this recurring danger, and that some more effective method of dealing with the glacier may be found than sending high officials and eminent men of science to see how it is getting on when a disaster has become inevitable. We are glad to see, from some expressions in the 'Mittheilungen,' that operations of an effective kind are in contemplation.

The 'Times' of July 24 reports a similar disaster in the Schnalserthal; but up to the time of going to press we have seen no confirmation of this in any trustworthy quarter.

NAMES OF SAN MARTINO PEAKS.—In the 'Oesterr. Alpen-Zeitung' for July 10 (No. 326) Dr. Diener takes exception to the forms adopted by Mr. Wood for the names of two peaks in this district, the ascent of which was described in the February number of this Journal.\* Mr. Wood writes 'Cima Cugilio'; Dr. Diener corrects to 'Cima Cuseglio,' but gives no reason for his preference. With all respect towards the president of the Austrian Club, we can hardly accept his *ipse dixit* as settling a question of orthography; certainly not in a 'Wälsch' district. The difference in sound between the two forms amounts, as anyone who knows the peculiarities of the Venetian dialect will recognise, to little more than that between (English) *x* and *s*. Mr. Wood writes that he took some trouble to get the word in its correct form, and that which he ultimately adopted was written for him by the guide Barbaria after consultation with Bettega; as we gather, with the approval of the spiritual authority in the person of the local priest. The question, of course, can only be definitely settled when we can find out the etymology of the name.

Dr. Diener's other objection is to the name Cima di Pradidali. According to him this belongs to a peak on the other (the north-east) side of the Passo di Ball; that ascended by Mr. Wood being the *Campanile di P.* The latter, however, says that he found both names applied indiscriminately to his peak; and as 'Campanile' was much more appropriate to another pinnacle rising between his peak and the Cima di Ball, he preferred, exercising the right of a first visitor, to retain 'Cima' for the summit climbed by him.

It may be added that the peak which Dr. Diener would call Cima di Pradidali, Mr. Wood found to bear the local name of Cima da Lago.

The point is not very important, but the nomenclature of the lesser peaks about San Martino is still in a state of confusion, and any attempt to clear it a little should, we think, be welcomed.

\* See p. 368.

**THE PAYMENT OF GUIDES.**—Are guides in future to be paid 'by the hour,' and are the old 'tariffs' to be abolished? This is the question which is being warmly discussed by members of the Austrian and German-Austrian Alpine Clubs, and which is the subject of various interesting papers in the 'Mittheilungen' and 'Touristen-Zeitung.' That such a question should ever have been asked seems to us rather surprising. When we find, however, that it is Herr Purtscheller who is the author and chief advocate of the proposal to pay guides, not according to the difficulty of the work done, and the skill required to do it, but simply according to the time consumed, we are compelled to give the matter more attention than it appears to deserve at first sight, for any opinion expressed by so eminent an authority on Alpine matters is, at least, entitled to respect. We may at once admit that there is a good deal in his arguments, and that he is successful in pointing out many disadvantages of the present system, though he fails, in our opinion, to make out a case for the system he advocates.

Herr Meurer proposes a *via media*, and would pay the guides, not by the hour, but by the 'half-day.' His scheme, moreover, involves the classification of all ascents and expeditions into various groups according to the difficulty, which is to regulate the scale of payment.

In dealing with the whole question, it must not be forgotten that all these regulations and tariffs are not for the experienced mountaineer, who mostly engages his guide for a certain time and on special terms, but for the novice, who is not likely to fall in with the best guides, and easily becomes a victim to the most unscrupulous of their class. What opportunities for unfair gain payment by time offers under such circumstances it is easy to perceive. A system, moreover, which involves elaborate book-keeping and possible questions on the termination of the engagement is hardly one which will commend itself to most travellers; nor do we think that the better class of guides will ever agree to a scheme under which their pay for, say, the ascent of the Breithorn with a slow walker, will be far better than for that of the Rothhorn with a tolerably fast one; it is putting a premium on incompetence. What is wanted is simplicity, and a system which makes it impossible for any differences to arise on money matters between employer and employed. The old tariff system has, on the whole, worked well. No one will deny that existing tariffs are far from perfect—grossly unequal in some cases and wanting thorough revision; but it cannot be beyond the powers of vast organisations like the foreign clubs to grapple with the question effectually, and to produce new tariffs which are fair and satisfactory all round. No other system will be found practicable, and any attempt to carry out Herr Purtscheller's proposal will only tend, not to raise, but to lower the standard of guides generally, and to add to the existing temptations to mountaineers of dispensing with guides altogether—a result which he perhaps would hardly deplore, but which would be most undesirable as far as the vast majority of travellers is concerned. All efforts should be directed towards making the companionship of a guide, not a burden and source of annoyance, but a pleasure, as it has been, and is still, in many cases. The relation as between employer and em-

ployed should be left out of sight as far as possible, and that can only be done when the terms are clearly understood beforehand, or when there is a well-established tariff to go by.

F. O. S.

WATZMANN FROM S. BARTHOLOMÄ.—With reference to an incidental statement in the May number (p. 450) that this ascent has only been effected by Herren Purtscheller and Merzbacher, with the guide Preiss (*vulgo* Punz), of Ramsau, Herr Otto Schück writes:—‘Would you kindly permit me to say that the *first* ascent of the Watzmann from S. Bartholomä was made in 1881 by myself, with the guide Johann Grill (Kederbacher)?’

NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB.—We learn from Mr. G. E. Mannering that the preliminary steps towards the formation of this Club have been taken. It is proposed to admit anyone as a ‘subscriber,’ but to require a moderate qualification for ‘membership.’ Our brethren at the Antipodes are clearly men of resource.

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

#### Books.

- \*Kalender des Deutschen und Oesterreichischen Alpenvereins für das Jahr 1891. Herausgegeben von Johannes Emmer. Small 8vo. München, 1891. (Presented by the Publishers.)
- \*Baedeker (K.) The Eastern Alps, including the Bavarian Highlands, Tyrol, Salzburg, &c. Seventh Edition. 8vo. Maps. Leipsic, 1891. (Presented by the Publisher.)
- \*—Switzerland and the Adjacent Portions of Italy, Savoy, and the Tyrol. Fourteenth Edition. 8vo. Maps. Leipsic, 1891. (Presented by the Publisher.)
- \*Conway (W. M.) Climbers' Guide to the Eastern Pennine Alps. Small 8vo. London, 1891. Price 10s. (Presented by the Publisher.)
- \*Broke (George). With Sack and Stock in Alaska. 8vo. Maps. London, 1891. (Presented by the Publishers.)
- \*Svenska Turistföreningens Årsskrift för År 1891. 8vo. Illustrations. Stockholm. (Presented by the Publisher.)
- \*Norske Turistforenings Årbog for 1890. 8vo. Map and Plates. Kristiania, 1891. (Presented by the Publishers.)
- Arnaud (Henri). Glorious Recovery by the Vaudois of the Valleys, trans., with a History of that People previous and subsequent to that Event, by Hugh Dyke Acland. 8vo. Map and Plates. London, 1827.
- \*Oesterreichische Touristen-Zeitung. Vols. I. to VIII. 1881-8. 4to. Wien. (Vols. I., II., IV.-VIII., presented by the Oesterr. Touristen-Club; Vol. III. purchased.)
- \*Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, XV. Annuario. Guida del Trentino di Ottone Brentare. Trentino Orientale, Parte 1<sup>a</sup>: Val d'Adige inferiore e Valsugana. Small 8vo. Bassano, 1891. (Presented by the Society.)
- \*Meurer (Julius). Handy Illustrated Guide to Vienna and its Environs. Small 8vo. Engravings and Maps. Vienna, 1891. (Presented by the Publisher.)
- \*Quatrième Congrès International des Sciences Géographiques, tenu à Paris en 1889. Tomes I., II. Compte Rendu publié par le Secrétariat Général du Congrès. 8vo. Paris, 1890-1. (Presented by the Congress.)
- \*Zeitschrift des D. u. Ö. Alpenvereins. Jahrgang 1891, Bd. XXI. 8vo. Wien, 1891. (Presented by the Club.)

\* Presented.

## Photographs.

- \*Grand Combin, from Col des Otanes.
- \*Rock-Climbing.
- \*Mauvais Pas, Aiguille de la Za.
- \*Mont Pleureur, from S.W. arête.
- \*Summit of Aiguille de Botzeresse.
- \*Combin de Corbassière and Petit Combin, from Col des Otanes.
- \*Aiguille de la Za, South Face.
- \*On the Dent Perroc.

From Kodak Negatives by Walter Leaf. (Presented by Walter Leaf, Esq.)

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 " " Nos. 13, 15, 22. 1s. per number.
- Rivista Mensile del C. A. Italiano. Vol. II., No. 4; Vol. III., No. 4; Vol. IV., complete; Vol. V., complete except No. 1; Vol. VI., Nos. 1-6, 8-10. 5s. the lot.  
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- Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini, Annuario 1877, 1878-9, 1886-7, 1888. 2s. each volume.
- Club Alpin Français, Bulletin, No. 4, December 1875. 6d.  
 " " Bulletin Trimestriel, 1876; 1877, Parts 1, 3, 4; 1878, Parts 1, 2; 1879, Part 4; 1880, Parts 3, 4. 1s. per part.  
 " " Bulletin Mensuel, 1883; 1884, Nos. 2-6, 8, 9; 1885, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 7-9; 1886, Nos. 1-7, 9; 1887; 1888; 1889; 1890. Nos. 1-3, 5-7, 9. 20s. the lot.
- Annuaire du Club Alpin Français, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879. 5s. per volume.
- Section Lyonnaise C.A.F. Nos. 1, 3-6. 1s. per number.
- Appalachia, Vol. V., 1887-9. 4 parts. 5s.
- Norske Turistforenings Årbog, 1878, 1882, 1886. 1s. per volume.
- Echo des Alpes. No. 1, 1870; No. 3, 1878; No. 1, 1879. 6d. per number.
- Oesterreich. Alpen-Zeitung. Vols. I.-VIII., 1879-86, wanting Nos. 1, 3, 5, 8-10, 26, 66, 89, 104, 109, 110, 123, 135. 20s. the lot.
- Jahrbuch des Ungarischen Karpathen-Vereines. Vols. I. and XV., 1874, 1888. 1s. each volume.
- Giornale delle Alpi. G. T. Cimino. Anno I., Fasc. 1-4, 9-12; Anno II., Fasc. 1-6. 1864-5. 7s.
- Jahrbuch des Oesterreich. Alpen-Vereines. Bd. I. 1865. 5s.
- Mittheilungen des D. u. Oe. A.-Vereines. 1878, No. 2; 1879, No. 1; 1889. No. 6. 6d. each number.
- Bibliotheca Carpatica. Von Hugo Payer. 1880. 2s.
- Rassegna di Alpinismo. Da F. Carega di Muricce. Anno II., Nos. 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-13. 1880. 2s. the lot.
- Zeitschrift des D. u. Oe. A.-Vereins. Vols. 3, 4, 17, 1872, 1873, and 1886. 5s. per volume.  
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- Bollettino della Sezione di Brescia, C. A. I. 1874. 6d.
- C. A. I., Sezione di Agordo. Adunanza Straordinaria, 1 Settemb. 1878. 6d.
- La Vaudaine: Etude sur le Vallon de la Vaux-Daine. H. Fernand. 1879. 6d.
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- Suggestions for the Exploration of Iceland. W. Longman. 1861. 9d.
- Die Stubai Gebirgsgruppe. Barth u. Pfandler. 1865. 7s. 6d.
- Les Alpes du Dauphiné. E. Debriges. 1885. 6d.
- Mont-Blanc. Italian Ode translated into English Verse. 1879. 1s.

\* Presented.

- Materiali per la Carta Geologica della Svizzera. Vol. XVII. Appendice ed Indice [only]. 1880. 6*d*.  
 Bibliothek der Sektion Bern des S.A.C. 1887. 6*d*.  
 Alcune Varietà Alpinistiche nel 1878. C. Isaia. 1879. 6*d*.  
 Sketch of a Journey through Switzerland. Duchess of Devonshire. 1816. 1*s*.  
 Anleitung zu wissenschaftlichen Beobachtungen auf Alpenreisen, D. u. Oe. A.-V. 5 parts, 1878-82. 10*s*.  
 Wanderstudien aus der Schweiz, Osenbrüggen. Bde. 1, 6. 1867, 1881. 2*s*. 6*d*. each.  
 La Caverna del Rio Martino. G. B. Araldo. 1885. 6*d*.  
 Report on a Journey among the New Zealand Glaciers. Green. 1882. 6*d*.  
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 Itinerarium für das Excursionsgebiet des S.A.-C. für 1882, 1883. E. v. Feltenberg. 1882. 6*d*.  
 How to See Norway. J. R. Campbell. 1871. 1*s*.  
 Hochalpenstudien. Tuckett. 1<sup>er</sup> Theil. 1873. 3*s*.  
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 Aus der Firnenwelt. Weilenmann. Vol. I. only. 1872. 2*s*.  
 Les Plantes des Alpes. H. Correvon. 1885. 5*s*.  
 Sulzfluh: Excursion der Section Rhätia. 1865. 1*s*.  
 Verhandlungen des Oesterr. Alpenvereines. 1<sup>er</sup> Heft. 1864. 1*s*.  
 Mittheilungen des Oesterr. Alpenvereines. 2<sup>er</sup> Band. 1864. 2*s*.  
 Jahrbuch des Schweizerischen A.C., II., 1865, and Artistische Beilagen. 5*s*.  
 " " without Beilagen. 2*s*. 6*d*.  
 " " XVI., 1880-1, without Beilagen. Half-calf, 4*s*.

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## REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

*Climbers' Guide to the Eastern Pennine Alps.* By William Martin Conway. (London: T. Fisher Unwin. 1891.) 10*s*.

THE second half of Mr. Conway's 'Pennine Guide' is as good as was expected, which is no faint praise. The sections included are the Breithorn, Valtournanche, Ayas, and Gressoney Ridges, Monte Rosa, the Loccie and Weisssthor Ridges, the Saas Grat, and Weissmies Grat. Throughout this district there is probably no one person who can speak with greater authority than Mr. Conway. His work is most careful and accurate, and the many references to publications of foreign Alpine Clubs and to books of travel show the great labour he has bestowed on his guide-book.

There is, however, a passage in Mr. Conway's preface which ought not to pass without remark. He seems to think that the new edition of 'Ball's Guide' will necessarily 'diminish what little demand might have arisen for special books dealing with minor districts,' and thus prevent the publication of climbers' pocket-books. This we cannot believe would in any way be the case. 'Ball's Guide' and a climber's pocket-book are so entirely different in their scheme and object that it is practically impossible that the one should come into competition with the other. There is plenty of room for both of them. When Mr. Conway says that if the old arrangement of 'Ball's Guide' is maintained 'the guide-book will no longer be a climber's guide,' he forgets that 'Ball's Guide' never was a climber's guide pure and