

There still remains considerable uncertainty as to which was the peak ascended by Mr. J. S. Anderson on August 5, 1882.* The position of Mr. Anderson's Gässjoch † is likewise doubtful. On September 1, 1883, Mrs. E. P. Jackson ascended by way of the Jungen glacier, a steep aiguille, and a peak which was believed to be the Barrhorn; the identity of these peaks is not yet satisfactorily accounted for.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the centrists of Zermatt still have a few trifling novelties at their disposal for the season of 1892. The confusion produced by reading the previously published accounts was mainly due to the Stellihörner having been almost invariably mistaken for the very similar Barrhörner. It was the discovery of this fact in 1890 that made me give, to what must henceforward be called the Stellihörner, the provisional name of Lockerspitzen.

There are some curious passages about the Barrhorn group in Engelhardt's 'Monte Rosa,' pp. 190, 191, and 'Naturschilderungen,' p. 159.

Published views of the Turtmann range are as follows:—

W. side: 'Alpine Portfolio,' No. 84.

E. side: Studer's 'Panorama from the Mattwaldhorn,' issued in 1864 with vol. i. of the 'S. A. C. Jahrbuch.'

N. side: Studer's 'Panorama from the Schwarzhorn' (3,204 m.), in 'S. A. C. J.,' vii.

THE EARLY ATTEMPTS ON MONTE ROSA FROM THE ZERMATT SIDE.

BY F. T. WETHERED.

ON August 14, 1891, I had an opportunity of studying the highest ridge of Monte Rosa from the rocks of the Zumstein Spitze, and from that side the *three* points which form the subject of Mr. Coolidge's very interesting note, published in the 'Alpine Journal' (for August 1891), are very clear and distinct (see Sig. Sella's photo, No. 172, from the Signal Kuppe; and, better still, his photogravure 'M. Rosa dal Pianoro Superiore del Lysjoch,' in 'Monte Rosa and Gressoney,' G. Amosso, Biella, 1890).

The earliest authentically recorded attempt on the highest ridge of Monte Rosa was by Messrs. Ordinaire and Puiseux, with four guides, on August 13, 1847. They reached, however, the Silber Sattel and no further.

I agree with Mr. Coolidge that the ascents of Professor Ulrich's guides in 1848, and of the Schlagintweits in 1851, from the Silber Sattel, were to the Grenzgipfel ('peak X'), ‡ and *not* to the Ost Spitze; and I am quite convinced that the first ascent of the Ost Spitze was made by the three brothers Smyth on September 1, 1854.

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xi. p. 118.

† *Ibid.* vol. x. p. 96.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. xv. p. 494.

'My two brothers, Colonel Smyth and the Rev. J. G. Smyth, and I, after one unsuccessful trial (driven back by bad weather), ascended to the Sattel between the Nord End and Höchste Spitze, then, facing the latter, reached a point connected with the summit by a ridge which we considered for various reasons—state of snow, ice, wind, &c.—too dangerous to attempt.' Such is the Rev. C. Smyth's own account, kindly sent to me just lately, of this, the first ascent of the Ost Spitze. The Rev. J. G. Smyth, a member of the party who made the first ascent of the Allerhöchste Spitze in 1855, writes to me: 'I can only say the point we reached in 1854 was the next highest point on the east side of the real summit.' When the ascent had been completed, Mr. C. Smyth, having nothing else to leave *in memoriam*, stripped himself of his shirt and affixed it to an alpenstock; and Mr. E. S. Kennedy informs me that when *he* reached the same point from the north, on September 11 of the same year, he cut off a piece of this same shirt as evidence of his own success. He *then* believed it to be the highest point in the ridge. Three days previously Mr. Kennedy had ascended, also from the north, to a point about two-thirds of the way up the rocks—*i.e.* midway between the Ost Spitze and Grenzgipfel—and, while he waited there, his guide (Taugwald) climbed on *towards the left*, reached a point on the summit ridge, and then returned (at the end of three-quarters of an hour in all) to Mr. Kennedy. Thus it is clear enough that on that occasion (September 8) Taugwald reached the Grenzgipfel, and *not* the Ost Spitze, as Mr. Coolidge concludes.

It is pretty obvious that, if Taugwald took three-quarters of an hour to reach the summit ridge from a point two-thirds of the distance between it and the névé at its base and to return to the same point (see 'Where there's a Will there's a Way,' 2nd edition, Longmans, 1856), Ulrich's guides could not, supposing the mountain to have presented itself under similar conditions on the occasion of each of the two ascents, have taken only half an hour from the Silber Sattel to reach the summit of the point now known as the Ost Spitze (see 'Modern Mountaineering,' p. 31). It took the Smyth party, in 1854, an hour and a half to ascend from the névé to the Ost Spitze. Moreover, although the Allerhöchste Spitze *is* visible from névé almost immediately at the base of the Ost Spitze, inasmuch as a man's hat was seen from the névé to be blown off his head whilst its wearer was on the Allerhöchste Spitze (by one of the parties who ascended the Ost Spitze in 1878), yet Mr. Coolidge is quite correct in his belief that the Allerhöchste Spitze *cannot* be seen from the Silber Sattel itself; and in corroboration of our joint belief on this subject, I may mention that a certain photograph of Herr Beck's, taken from the Allerhöchste Spitze, which shows the Nord End and a good deal of the snow ridge leading from it towards the Silber Sattel, does *not* show the Sattel itself. When Messrs. Penhall and Scriven and I ascended the Allerhöchste Spitze from the north, *viâ* the summit of the Ost Spitze, we got into a rock gully, after mounting a steep snow slope from the névé, a short distance below the Silber Sattel, the right side of which was bounded by a very prominent rock buttress all the rest of the way to the Ost Spitze, which would be quite enough to block out the view of the

Allerhöchste Spitze from a party standing on the Silber Sattel itself; so that I quite agree with Mr. Coolidge when he remarks that, inasmuch as the Schlagintweits, in 1851, saw *two* points 'from the Silber Sattel,' one of which was 'to the west, which is defended on all sides by extremely steep walls of rock, and is the higher of the two,' and whereas as a fact they only ascended 'the one rather more to the east, which is lower,' they must perforce have ascended the Grenzgifpel, and no other point.

Mr. Kennedy tells me that on September 11, 1854, after having zigzagged a good deal on the face of the rocks, he eventually turned to the right, and thence on to his peak (Ost Spitze); and he has a vivid recollection of glissading down a certain snow slope to the névé below, which I am quite satisfied is the identical slope up which we mounted to the rock gully in 1878, when ascending the same peak on our way to the Allerhöchste Spitze. Colonel Smyth, who formed one of the party in the ascent of the Ost Spitze on September 1, 1854, states to me emphatically that '*he is sure*' that Mr. Bird 'only reached the Sattel (*sc.* Silber Sattel), which must be 400 or 500 feet from the summit.' So that the ascents of the great peak between 1848 and 1855, both inclusive, may be summarised thus:—

(1) Professor Ulrich's two guides—the Grenzgifpel, on August 12, 1848.

(2) Adolph and Hermann Schlagintweit with three guides—the Grenzgifpel, on August 22, 1851.

(3) Messrs. Smyth (3), with three guides—the Ost Spitze on September 1, 1854; so that Mr. Conway is incorrect in his 'Eastern Pennine Guide' (1891), p. 56, when he assigns the first ascent of the Ost Spitze to Messrs. Penhall and Scriven, and myself, on August 10, 1878, though he might have stated with accuracy that the ascent made by us (having first reached the summit of the Nord End) to the Allerhöchste Spitze, *via* the Ost Spitze, was the first ascent of the Allerhöchste Spitze from the north.

(4) Mr. E. S. Kennedy's guide, Taugwald—Grenzgifpel, on September 8, 1854.

(5) Mr. E. S. Kennedy, with two guides (Taugwald)—Ost Spitze, on September 11, 1854.

(6) Messrs. Smyth (2), Hudson, Birkbeck, and Stevenson—the Dufour (or Allerhöchste) Spitze, by the W. arête, on August 1, 1855. They started from the Riffel with four guides; but, when they all reached the Grand Plateau, the guides were so anxious to make another attempt on the Dufour Spitze by the Silber Sattel route, that they lagged behind, and only caught up Messrs. Smyth and their party, when success seemed well within reach, by the western arête.