

ALPINE NOTES AND NEW EXPEDITIONS.

POINTE DU VALLON DES ÉTAGES BY THE N.E. RIDGE. *Aug. 6, 1892.*—Mr. T. P. H. Jose, with Clemens Zurbriggen, of Saas, and a local porter, made a variation in this route.* Following the route for the Col de Clot Châtel from La Béarde on the slopes above the left bank of the Glacier du Chardon, but diverging to the left some 600 feet below the actual summit of the pass, they struck the N.E. ridge of the Pointe du Vallon des Étages somewhat above and to the west of the pass. Keeping on the edge of the ridge, or immediately under it on the S., they reached the top of the highest (or E.) peak of the mountain in 6 hrs. (inclusive of halts) from La Béarde. The lower part of this ridge is of rather rotten rock, but improves higher up. Passing along the summit ridge to the W. peak, they descended by the usual route, the Col de Lavey and the upper slopes of the Glacier du Chardon.

This is unquestionably the best way to climb the Pointe du Vallon des Étages, as the ascent is thus made over interesting rocks, and avoids the weary snow trudge up the slopes of the Col de Lavey, pleasant enough to run down in the afternoon.

GRANDE AIGUILLE BY W. FACE. *Aug. 12.*—The same party, after ascending the Grande Aiguille by the ordinary route from La Béarde, descended its W. face into the Vallon des Étages. From the top they passed S.W. along the summit ridge for some 200 yards, then turning to their right climbed down a rock rib lying to the left of the main gully (stones falling therein) on the W. face. They descended this rib till the foot of the gully was reached; this had to be traversed (at a trot) to gain the grass slopes and foot-track leading into the valley. A local man is useful to find and follow this erratic specimen of a path. The lower part of the Vallon des Étages and the falls of its stream are the only tolerable valley scenery within a morning's walk of La Béarde.

PIC GÉNY BY E. RIDGE. *Aug. 13.*—The same party, starting from La Béarde, followed the route for Le Plaret until within $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. of the Glacier du Plaret. Turning then to the left they crossed the end of the right branch of this glacier straight to the E. ridge of the mountain, and followed it either on or just under its edge, reaching the summit in $5\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. (inclusive of halts) from La Béarde. They descended by the N. ridge to the southern Col du Plaret, and thence went straight down on to the Glacier du Plaret. The best route over the glacier turns sharply to the left, and, descending but slightly, rejoins the Plaret route. Some time was lost in trying the descent through the crevasses direct into the valley. This is an interesting climb, much to be preferred to the usual ascent through Les Étages and the Vallon d'Amont, or to the ascent of the Tête du Rouget by the same round-about route.

* See *Climbers' Guides*: 'Dauphiny Central Alps,' p. 108.

TOUR DE ST. OURS, 3,583 mètres=11,755 feet, Italian Government Map; 3,602 mètres=11,818 feet, Paganini.

Aug. 5, 1892.—Messrs. E. T. Compton and G. Yeld, with François Pession and André Pellissier, of Val Tournanche, and a Cogne porter, having reached the Coupé de Monei from the Monei Châlets, where they spent the previous night, made the first ascent of this fine peak. The ascent took about 1 hr. 50 min. from the Coupé. To gain the rocks of the peak, which were not feasible from the Coupé direct, a détour to the right had to be made and a good many steps cut, first in snow and afterwards in ice. The rocks once reached the party went nearly straight up. No trace of a previous descent was discovered. The names were left in a bottle. The party then descended (westwards) a huge snow mamelon to a col between two mamelons, and then by rocks and snow to the Monei Glacier. They then went down by the Col Monei to the Piantonetto Refuge.

The Tour de St. André,* a higher peak between this one and the Tour St. Pierre, was ascended by an Italian party in 1881, and by Messrs. Stallard and Ormerod, August 10, 1891.

BEC DE LA PATIENCE (ROSSA OR ROCCIA VIVA EST), 3,552 m. = 11,655 feet, Italian Government map; 3,604 mètres=11,825 feet, Paganini.—Mr. G. Yeld, with François Pession and André Pellissier, of Val Tournanche, made the first ascent of this fine peak from the Piantonetto Refuge, by way of the Col San Lorenzo,* first crossed by Dr. Baretta on August 10, 1886, and the Rossa Viva Glacier. Mr. E. T. Compton accompanied them as far as the Rossa Viva Glacier. They reached the crest of the ridge which runs from this peak towards the Rossa Viva a few minutes below the summit, and so reached the top. No trace of any previous visitors could be found. Though this peak is spoken of as 'a snowy projection on the east ridge of the true Rossa Viva,'† it is really a perfectly distinct summit, and stands out splendidly in the view from the meadows and the road just below the village of Cogne. The topography is discussed in 'Alpine Journal,' xiv. pp. 484-6. The party descended by the same route to the Refugio.

COL DE LA GRIVOLETTA, *circa* 10,500 feet. GRIVOLETTA, 3,526 mètres = 11,569 feet. COL DES CLOCHETTES, *circa* 11,300 feet. Aug. 11.—The same party ascended from Cogne by the Col Trajo route to the little glacier under the Grivoletta, for which the name Glacier de la Grivoletta is proposed. They then by this glacier and steep smooth rocks followed by loose ones reached the col between this little glacier and the Glacier de Trajo, which may be called Col de la Grivoletta. The glacier, which is rather steep, afforded considerable amusement. Three big sérunds were crossed. From the col they followed the ridge to the top of the Grivoletta. The whole ascent took 8 hrs. from Cogne, which seems excessive, but time was lost on the moraine. The climb when once the glacier is reached is interesting and in parts not easy. This route is quite new. The Grivoletta

* See p. 51.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 120.

‡ *Ibid.* vol. xiv. p. 486.

has only been once ascended previously—viz. by Mr. Yeld and Seraphin Henry, August 14, 1885,* who took the easy route of the Pousset and the Trajo glacier. The party descended to the col between the Grivoletta and the Grivola, first reached by Mr. Yeld's party but never crossed. For this the name Col des Clochettes is proposed. The party intended to descend to the Glacier de la Grivola and so gain the Col Trajo, or else try the passage between the Grivoletta and the Punta Crevasse (first climbed by Messrs. Coolidge and Gardiner, August 21, 1889 †), but as there was much thick mist, they returned to Cogne by the Glacier de Trajo and the ordinary Grivola route.

'Both Mr. Compton and myself were much pleased with the two guides.' G. Y.

VARIATION OF COL DE MOIRY, about 3,600 m. or 11,800 feet.—On August 8, 1892, Mr. J. J. Withers, with the guides J. B. Epiney, of Zinal, and Martin Mitrailier, of Evolena, left *Ferpècle* at 2 A.M., followed the Bricolla path for $\frac{1}{2}$ hr., then turned east by path over the Alp des Rosses, keeping always on the north side of the small stream which runs down in the middle of the valley. After $1\frac{1}{2}$ hr. walking over the Alp the party arrived at the edge of the moraine of the small Glacier des Rosses. From this point they ascended loose rock and snow slopes in a N.E. direction till under the East Pointe de Mourt. Here they turned to a large square block of rock which was very prominent on the side to the E.S.E., and traversed over smooth slabs of rock till they gained the ridge which runs from the East Pointe de Mourt to the Dents des Rosses at a point about 50 feet north of the before-mentioned block of rock at 6.30. This point where the ridge is crossed is north of the Col de Moiry (3,600 m. ?), and about 50 feet higher. The Col de Moiry is the lowest point on the ridge between the East Pointe de Mourt and the Dents des Rosses. By keeping north of the Col de Moiry the very smooth rock directly under it, which was covered with ice, was avoided. From the ridge the party went down, bearing slightly north, over steep and rotten rock till they arrived at the nevé of the Glacier de Moiry. Passing the bergschrund they crossed the glacier in 1 hr. to the Col de l'Allée and so to Zinal.

DENTS DES ROSSES, 11,877 ft. ‡—Mr. J. J. Withers on August 12, 1892, with the guides Elie Peter and J. B. Epiney, of Zinal, left the Zinal Hotel at 2.30, and arrived at top of Col de l'Allée at 6.15. They then crossed the Glacier de Moiry in a S.S.W. direction towards the East Pointe de Mourt. Arriving at the bergschrund at the foot of that peak they bore away south under the bergschrund till under the most northerly of the four peaks which lie on the ridge leading north from the Pointe de Bricolla, which four peaks are the Dents des Rosses. The most northerly of these four peaks is the one ascended by Messrs. Monro and Jones as reported in 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xv. p. 546. Arriving under this peak the party crossed the bergschrund

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 418, 9.

† *Ibid.* vol. xiv. p. 486.

‡ 'No information.' *Conway's Pennine Guide*, p. 85; *Alpine Journal*, vol. xv. p. 546.

and climbed straight up over easy snow and rock to the top of that peak, arriving at 7.30, where they found a stone man. From this point all the three peaks between this point and the Pointe de Bricolla seemed higher than it was, the highest being the peak nearest the Pointe de Bricolla. Accordingly the party, leaving Messrs. Monro and Jones's peak, traversed the ridge which led south over two intermediate peaks to the peak next to the Pointe de Bricolla. On none of these three peaks was there any record of an ascent. The ridge was a narrow one, sometimes of snow, sometimes of rock, but not difficult. The party arrived at the last peak about 8.15. After a halt they went down the eastern snow slope, crossed the bergschrund and returned over the Glacier de Moiry, Bouquetin, and Pigne de l'Allée to Zinal.

DISTELHORN (8,748 m. = 12,288 ft.). *Aug. 22.*—Mr. T. P. H. Jose, with Clemens Zurbriggen, of Saas, and Anton Walden, of Bel Alp, made the first ascent of this peak. They slept (quite unnecessarily, as it proved) in the excellent Ober-Aletsch hut. Starting at 4.15 A.M., they ascended the Ober-Aletsch glacier and the Ober-Aletsch-firn (the latter much crevassed) to the N.N.E. base of the final rocks, which were reached in $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs. from the hut: crevasses troublesome. Ascending the rocks, which being full of fresh snow made climbing slow and cold work, and bearing slightly to the left they reached the summit in $4\frac{3}{4}$ hrs. from the hut. Passing on to another point, a few yards further S.W. on the summit ridge, which appeared slightly higher, but which proved to be slightly lower than the first point reached, they built a small cairn. The clouds which had been forming steadily all the morning spoilt any view which there might have been, and a cold wind rendered their stay short. They descended from the secondary point by the S. face of the rocks direct on to the upper slopes of the Ober-Aletsch-firn; these rocks were absolutely simple, and much shorter than those climbed on the more north-easterly line of ascent. On regaining the snow they skirted left round the rocks of the Distelhorn and reached the summit of the Sattel-lücke, intending to cross it into the Lötschenthal; but on descending some 200 feet on the N. side, they found the line of descent alive with falling stones, showered down by the high wind, so were forced to return and make their way to Ried over the Beichgrat. It is possible the crevasses of the Ober-Aletsch-firn might sometimes prevent an ascent. No other difficulties were met with.

HORUNG-TINDER, WEST RIENSTIND.—On July 29, Messrs. J. J. Hoddinott, Benjamin Goodfellow, and E. J. Woolley, with Herr Thorgeir Sulheim as guide, left the Berdal Alpine Hut at 6.15 A.M., and reached the top of Ravn Skar, at 9.30, with the intention of attempting the ascent of the West Rienstind by the south face. On a close inspection this appeared to be impracticable, so the party made a curious rock traverse downwards, above the Gravdals-bræ, for about an hour, when they found a gully leading up the south-south-east face. They ascended this gully, and emerged on the crest of the south arête about ten minutes below the summit of the mountain, which they gained at 1.30, after a most interesting climb. They then

glissaded down the easy snow-slope to the Riens Skar by the route followed by Herr Hall on the first ascent, and climbed the middle Riensstind, first ascended, we believe, by Mr. Willink, reaching the top at 6 P.M. After following Mr. Puckle's route down the Gravdals-bræ, they arrived at Gravdals Sæter at 11.40.

EASTERN MARADALSTIND. Aug. 8.—The same party ascended this peak from the Maradals-bræ to the foot of the 'north-east angle,' where they joined and followed the route which was taken on the occasion of the first ascent in the year 1885. Persistent bad weather prevented this strong party from making together any other new expeditions.

A SNOW SHOE GLACIER EXPEDITION.—On August 5, Herr Sulheim and Mr. Hoddinott left Fjeldsli sæter at 6.30, and at 11.15 reached the Harbards-bræ. Here they put on skie, and ascended the gentle slopes of the glacier with great ease and considerable speed, though a heavy snowstorm was raging. They sheltered from 1 to 2 o'clock under a friendly rock, and then descended the Fortunsdals-bræ until about 4 o'clock when they were driven by bad crevasses to rocks at the side of the glacier. They reached Nørstedals Sæter at 6.30.

W. CECIL SLINGSBY.

PETER BAUMANN AND THE GRINDELWALD FIRE.—Mr. F. Howard Collins writes (from Churchfield, Edgbaston) :—'In the fire at Grindelwald last summer, the guide "Little," or "American" Peter Baumann, had not only the misfortune to lose three châteaux (one his own house), but also his "Führerbuch," containing the accumulated testimonials of nineteen years. He has now obtained his new book—a veritable *tabula rasa*—and I am endeavouring to get some of his old "herrs" to write in it, so that he may not feel the loss so heavily when young tourists are thinking of engaging him. If any of his former employers who are willing to do this will communicate with me, I will forward the book.'

GRINDELWALD RELIEF FUND.—Amount received up to January 20

.	£382	4	6
Expenses for advertising, &c.	6	3
		1	1
Balance	£376	1	5

which has been remitted to Pfarrer Strasser, Grindelwald, President of the Local Committee, subject to certain conditions stipulated by the Committee of the Club. Receipt of the first remittance of 350*l.* was acknowledged in the following terms :—

F. O. Schuster, Esq.,
Hon. Secretary Alpine Club, London.

DEAR SIR,—We hereby send you a receipt for the sum of frs. 8,798.10, which the Alpine Club collected for the victims of the large fire at Grindelwald.

Your wishes concerning the distribution of the money will be strictly observed. We shall give you as soon as possible an account about how it was done.

We want to thank you most heartily for your effective help. Our

village—the old one—owed a great deal of its fame and importance to the sympathies of English mountaineers, and Grindelwald—the new one—will not forget what it owes to the kindness and generosity of its old protector and constant friend, the Alpine Club. And we hope that in times to come many a climber, when standing on the top of Eiger or Wetterhorn, and looking down into the well-known valley, may see a new but unspoilt village that means to say to him, ‘This, too, was done by the Alpine Club.’

With great respect,

For the Committee,

GOTTFR. STRASSER, Pfarrer, President.

ANDREAS FISCHER, Guide, Secretary.

Grindelwald, December 23, 1892.

GLACIER OBSERVATION.—We have received the following letter :—

Easterton, Parkstone R.S.O., Dorset.

December 19, 1892.

SIR,—With a view to attempting a summary of glacier movements, as also a short account of work done in the way of investigation, I have been in correspondence with some few individuals, several of whom—notably, Mr. Mannering, of the New Zealand Alpine Club—have sent me information.

But no private person could expect to be successful in trying to induce Colonial and other Governments to collect and supply him with information at all commensurate with the large number of ice fields scattered over the world, nor even of such as belong to English territories.

Yet a comparison of the history of ice-movement throughout the world might show us some interesting facts—for instance, as to possible periodicity and climatic influence.

A little enthusiasm, such as Professor F. A. Forel, of Morges, brings to bear upon his own sphere of investigation, would soon produce a body of valuable information.

But is not this a most appropriate subject for the Alpine Club to take in hand? A small committee of men interested enough to do the very moderate amount of work necessary to collate data, and, supported by the Club, would no doubt be listened to if they requested the New Zealand, Indian, Canadian, and other authorities to supply them with what may be attainable, whilst interest would spread, travellers and workers would send in their results, once it were known that a definite use could be made of such.

Nowadays it seems to me that a field of operations is decidedly a *want* in our body. And none would appear more appropriate than for us to follow Forel's notable example as regards those parts of the world which are outside his field of research and within ours.

I hope at this favourable time of year this appeal may induce some of my colleagues to take the matter in hand. The official position of such a committee would, I repeat, go far towards a success that no private man could hope for.

I remain, Sir, very truly yours,

MARSHALL HALL.

LORD MINTO'S ASCENT OF THE BREITHORN.—The following notes written by Ambroise Paccard, and referred to in the diary, seem sufficiently interesting to be worthy of textual reproduction. The sketch-map which accompanies them is also not without its value. Paccard's spelling has been retained.

Nottes sur la Vallée de St Nicolas, en Août, 1830.

Milord Minto, accompagné de M. son fils et de Mr. Hildyard, avaient avec eux—

Couttet, Joseph	} frères	} guides de Chamonix;
Devuassoud, Julien		
Devuassoud, Michel		
Devuassoud, Alexis		
Couttet, David, frère de Joseph;		
Cachat, Jean-Michel	} aussi guides de Chamonix; et	
Balmat, Mathieu		
Balmat, Michel		

Paccard, Ambroise, fils du docteur naturaliste de Chamonix.

Route suivie jusqu'à Zûrmatt, partis de Martigny le 29 Août, 1830:—

à Riddes (2 postes $\frac{1}{2}$)	3 heures
de Riddes à St Pierre	1 h.
de St Pierre à Sion [Sitten]	2 h.
(¹) de Sion à Sierre (2 postes $\frac{1}{2}$)	3 h.
de Sierre à Tourtemagne	3 h.
Couché à Tourtemagne au Lion d'Or, repartis le 26,	
de Tourtemagne à Viege, à la poste	3 h.
de Viege (ou Vipst) à Stalden	2 h.
de Stalden à St Nicolas	2 h.
de St Nicolas à Randath	2 h.
de Randath à Tesch	1 h.
de Tesch à Praborn ou Zûrmatt	1 h.

de Martigny au pied du Mont Rose 23 lieues.

La Vallée de St Nicolas a sa direction du nord-nord-est au sud-sud-ouest; elle est peuplée comme suit:—

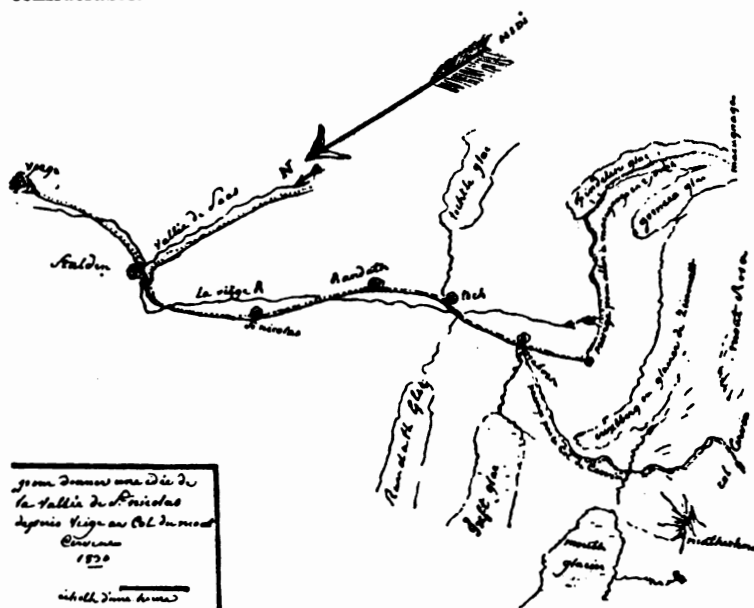
St Nicolas	500 âmes
Randath.	460
Tesch	450
Praborn ou Zûrmatt	400

Total 1,810 âmes

ayant huit lieues de longueur sur 250 mètres à sa plus grande largeur. Cette vallée est bordée des deux côtés, tantôt de rochers

(¹) Au-dessus de Sion est le bois de Finge, qui a environ 1 heure d'étendue. C'est dans ce bois que se défendirent vaillamment les Chasseurs ou Carabiniers du Haut Vallais en 1798 et 1799 contre l'armée française.

taillés à pic et surplombant quelquefois la route, d'autre fois se sont des torrents impétueux qui se précipitent de leurs sommets avec un grand fracas. Par-ci par-là des sapins, des forêts de mélèzes et de pins; des rivières à des grandes profondeurs, comme le Viège, que l'on passe sur un pont entre Tesch et Zûrmatt, d'une hauteur considérable.



Cette vallée est entourée de six ou sept glaciers, sans compter ceux du Mont Rose et du Mont Cervin.

Le 1^{er}, au-dessus de Randath, s'appelle glacier de *Tichle* à droite en montant.

Le 2^d, à gauche en mont[ant].

Le 3^e, au-dessus de Praborn, à droite, s'appelle glacier de *Trest*.

Le 4^e, le glacier de *Findelen* à droite, au-dessus de Praborn contre le Mont Rose.

Le 5^e est le glacier de *Gornera*, qui étant très étendu se réunit au glacier de Findelen et vont ensemble aboutir à Macugnaga.

Le 6^e est le glacier de *Tzûrmatt*, ou *Euzlberg*, qui vient aboutir près de Praborn.

Le 7^e, au sud-ouest du Materhorn, est le glacier de *Mouth*.

Le glacier de Findelen et celui de Gornera se joignent, bien au-delà de Macugnaga, et n'en font qu'un seul; lorsqu'on veut aller à Macugnaga depuis Zûrmatt, il faut aller passer le long du flanc ouest du glacier de Findelen, monter sur ce glacier, et le suivre jusqu'à Macugnaga; une femme et deux hommes sont allés cet été à *Varallo*, au sommet de la valle Sezia, par cette route.

Depuis Zûrmatt au glacier de Findelen il y a 3 heures.

Il y a un autre passage, à droite par le col du Mont Cervin, tout près du Matherhorn et à son pied méridional, pour aller au Breuil et à Châtillon d'Aoste : l'on y passe pour aller chercher du vin en Piémont avec des mulets.

Depuis Zûrmatt au Col du Cervin, il y a 6 heures.

La Vallée de St Nicolas est un pays fort isolé ; l'on ne peut y aborder que par des sentiers très étroits, suspendus sur des précipices épouvantables, où périssent en hiver les malheureux qui s'y hazardent sans les précautions nécessaires.

L'hiver dure environ sept mois, et ils ont habituellement de 5 à 6 pieds de neige.

Il n'y a dans le pays ni juges, ni avocats, ni notaire, ni médecins, ni pharmaciens, ni négociant en aucun article, pas même sur la quincaillerie la plus nécessaire. Si l'on a besoin de quelque chose il faut l'apporter avec soi.

Les prêtres sont les plus instruits et les mieux logés. Ce sont eux qui reçoivent les voyageurs, du moins à St Nicolas et à Praborn (que l'on nomme Zûrmatt en allemand, qui est la langue de l'endroit) ; ils sont aussi pasteurs des troupeaux, car le 26 août, vers les 5 heures du soir M. le curé de Randath était en champ à 2 ou 3 vaches ; ils sont encore fort souvent parrains des enfants de leurs paroissiens.

Dans ce pays, le plus riche est celui qui peut entretenir le plus de moutons en hiver, car c'est le seul commerce qui leur fasse voir de l'argent : les plus opulents n'ont jamais 1,000 francs vaillant ni plus de 80 moutons, qu'ils vendent au mois de septembre, lorsqu'ils sont gras, environ 100 batz, qui font 15 francs.

Ils se nourrissent de viandes salées de moutons, et gardent le plus gras pour carnaval ; alors après en avoir pris un soin extrême ils le rasent à l'eau bouillante et laissent la peau attachée à la viande pour le manger, ce qui se pratique dans chaque famille et est leur plus grand régal.

Le fond de la vallée est pâturage, qu'ils coupent deux fois l'année.

Ils ont fort peu de blé, qui est du seigle, semmé sur les pentes du bord de la vallée.

Les mœurs de ce pays paraissent être assez saines ; ils ne sont pas adonnés au vin, et M. Ignace Gotzponder m'a assuré que depuis dix-sept ans qu'il était curé à Praborn (ou Zûrmatt) il n'avait pas baptisé un enfant illégitime.

Au reste ils se marient jeunes et ont beaucoup d'enfants.

Voici la manière dont ils se font leurs déclarations et leurs accords de mariage :—

Le garçon invite à boire la fille qu'il a envie d'épouser. Si elle trinque avec lui ce sont des auspices très favorables, alors d'autres garçons qui s'en aperçoivent vont tirer des coups de pistolets et de fusils pour annoncer cette nouvelle aux autres habitants.

Après cela la première fois qu'il va voir sa bonne amie il la demande en mariage, et elle lui est presque toujours accordée ; ainsi en deux visites tout est terminé, ils retournent ensuite au cabaret boire avec les

parents *la Marios*, qui est une mesure de quatre bouteilles de vin, et vont se faire marier au curé.

Minéralogie.

La Vallée de St Nicolas est toute composée de roches primitives protogènes en larges bancs. C'est le gneiss de M. Dessausure.

Ces couches sont mélangées de roches stéatiteuses depuis l'amiante flexible, la serpentine, et l'ollaire (dont on exploite en dessus de Stalden une carrière fort puissante) jusqu'à l'asbeste le plus tenace.

Les roches renferment :—

1°, des idocrases d'un gris jaunâtre très-belles.

2°, des talcs cristallisés, aussi beaux.

3°, de l'amiante flexible qui peut se filer.

4°, de l'asbeste dure, d'un vert d'olive à cassure conchoïde ondulée.

5°, l'amphibole actionote verte, ou la rayonnante de M. Dessausure.

6°, des grenats disséminés dans plusieurs variétés de roches.

On trouve aussi sur les montagnes des plantes fort rares.

ACCIDENT TO GUIDES.—Another Alpine accident is reported from Tyrol. The guides Josef Mühlsteiger and Johann Windisch (of Inner Pfersch) perished in an avalanche on December 10. They started from Pfersch early on that morning with guns, ice-axes, &c., not saying where they were going. As they did not return in the evening, the Pfarrer next morning at Mass urged their neighbours to go in search of them. Twenty-eight men started and followed the tracks, which led them over the Portjoch to the Obernberg side. At a point W. of the Hinter See an avalanche was found to have fallen from a steep slope; and, as the tracks did not extend beyond it, it was plain the unfortunate men had been carried away by it and buried. After much labour their bodies were dug out. They were two of the best guides in the Pferschthal, and had repeatedly ascended the Pferscher Tribulaun. Johann Windisch during the last season was with Herr Merzbacher in the Caucasus.

THE PONTRESINA GUIDES' UNION.—Complaints, we are sorry to say, continue to reach us about the tariffs maintained by this body, and still more about the competency of its members. One really good guide, and three or four more who may be called promising, seem to be all that the chief mountaineering centre in the Engadine can boast; a poor show when one reflects that about every third man whom one meets in that resort has his hat decorated with an elaborate badge. As to the quality of the average, the following account sent by a well-known climber may afford a notion. The party, consisting of the writer, an Engadine gentleman, and two guides, left the Diavolezza hut at 20 min. after midnight to make the ascent of Crast Agüzza, crossing Piz Palu on the way. In half an hour the 'guides' had lost themselves hopelessly, and for an hour or more the party wandered about in all sorts of nasty places, among stones and rocks. Finally, one of the tourists took charge, and they got to the ridge of the mountain. There the guides developed a predilection for the cornice, on which their tracks were seen by a party that followed close behind.

The snow fortunately was firmly frozen at that early hour. Finally the party reached the foot of Crast Agúzza, after 'racing' over Piz Palu, in order to catch up some friends who had made straight for that peak. These, having a capable man to spare, lent him to the first party; and the two incompetent (but duly certified) guides were left sitting on the snow at the foot of the rocks. They had, however, no scruples when the time for payment came about demanding more than the full, and absurdly high, tariff for Piz Palu.

Another point in regard to this expedition may be mentioned. The writer, an experienced climber, was, as has been said, accompanied by a gentleman belonging to the district, an Engadiner born, and a chamois hunter from his youth. The head guide of Pontresina, on being asked to go with them by himself up Piz Palu, said that personally he would not have the least objection, but that if he went without a second guide, he would be liable to a fine of 50 fr. This recalls the old days of Chamonix, when a guide could be fined, as is recorded in the first volume of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers' for ascending Mont Blanc from St. Gervais.

After this, it is an anti-climax to mention that a member of this Club had, the year before last, to pay a Pontresina guide 45 fr. for a walk of eight hours from the Bernina Hospiz through Val Viola (during most of which he carried his own sack), on the plea that that was the tariff—and a monstrous tariff too—from Pontresina to Bormio!

Travellers who wish to climb in the Upper Engadine will do well to bring their guides; and the guides should be men of equable temper, for they will have to put up with plenty of insolence, unless things are much altered of late years.

THE LIBRARY.—The following additions have been made since October 15, 1892:

- Zeitschrift des Deutsch. u. Oesterr. Alpenvereins. Jahrgang 1892. Band xxiii. 8vo. Maps and illustrations. Berlin, 1892.
- Bollettino del Club Alpino Italiano per l'anno 1891. Vol. xxv. Maps and illustrations. Torino, 1892.
- Güssfeldt (Paul). Der Montblanc. Reprinted from the 'Deutsche Rundschau.' 8vo. Pamphlet. Berlin, 1892. (Presented.)
- Desor (E.). Excursions et Séjours dans les Glaciers et les Hautes Régions des Alpes, de M. Agassiz et de ses compagnons de voyage. 8vo. Portrait and plates. Neuchatel, 1844.
- Raffles (Thomas). Letters, during a tour through some parts of France, Savoy, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands, in the summer of 1817. Second edition. 8vo. Liverpool, 1819.
- Chapin (Frederick H.). The Land of the Cliff-Dwellers. 8vo. Illustrated. Boston, 1892. (Presented by the Appalachian Mountain Club.)
- Bosanquet (R. H. M.). Mountain-Sickness; and Power and Endurance. Reprint from the 'Philosophical Magazine' for January, 1893.
- Heathcote (Evelyn D.). Flowers of the Engadine. Drawn from Nature. 8vo. Coloured plates. Winchester, 1891.
- Fraas (Dr. Eberhard). Scenerie der Alpen. 8vo. Map and illustrations. Leipzig, 1892. (Presented by the publishers.)
- Società degli Alpinisti Tridentini. XVI. annuario. 1891-92. Illustrated. Rovereto, 1892.
- New London Atlas Map of Switzerland. Scale 8 miles to the inch. Copper-plate proof, without names. Stanford. (Presented by the publishers.)