# NEW EXPEDITIONS IN 1894.

[Contributors of 'New Expeditions' are requested to observe the following rules:—(1) To forward their accounts in the form in which they are to appear. (2) To prefix the name of the peak or pass from the best map, and the altitude both in mètres and feet in a parenthesis after the name. (3) To give the date of the ascent, and the names of the party. (4) To give exact references to any previously published descriptions of allied routes to which they may have occasion to refer. (5) To write the description with the best existing map before them, and to quote the figures of any measured point their route may touch. (6) To use always the points of the compass instead of the misleading words 'right' and 'left.' (7) To record their 'times' exclusive of halts. (8) To make their descriptions as brief as possible consistently with the above considerations. (9) To write on one side of the paper only, leaving a large margin, and to begin a new sheet for each expedition.]

## *Dauphiné District.*

Pointe de la Muande (3,319 m = 10,890 ft.); Sommet des Rouies (3,634 m. = 11,923 ft.) by the S. Arête. *July* 18.—M. Auguste Reynier, with Maximin Gaspard and Joseph Turc, made both these climbs for the first time. Starting from La Lavey, the party followed the usual route to the Col de la Muande till within 5 or 10 min. of that pass, and then ascended the Pointe de la Muande in 1 hr. Descending on the N. side of this peak to a snowy gap, they gained the base of the S. arête of the Rouies in 20 min. from the top of the Pointe. Thence they climbed up the S. arête direct to the cairn on the summit of the Rouies (2½ hrs.). The descent to La Bérarde was made by the ordinary route.

## *Eastern Graians.*

Tour du Grand St. Pierre, by the W. Ridge (3,692 m.=12,113 ft., Italian map; 3,697 m. = 12,130 ft., Paganini). *August* 19.—Messrs. P. E. Lord and G. Yeld, with François and Sylvain Pession, of Val Tournanche, having reached the Col Monei in 3 hrs. 55 min. from the Monei huts, made what is believed to be the first ascent of the St. Pierre by the W. ridge. The climb from the col to the summit took 5 hrs. 16 min., very brief halts included. There are many towers on this arête (separated by curving snow ridges), some of which were climbed, others turned. The party passed close to the top of the Pic du Retour,* though not actually over it. Through anxiety to avoid Messrs. Pendlebury's route† they kept afterwards too much to the right, and made the last bit of the ascent (very difficult) from the S. They descended by a variation of the usual route by the N. ridge (which was harder than usual), suffering much from a fierce wind, to the col between the St. Pierre and the Tour St. André, and then by the rocks to the right of the col, and over a big bergschrund reached the Glacier de Monei. This descent from the col is probably

* See *Climber's Guide to the Mountains of Cogne*, p. 71.
† See *ibid.* p. 70; *Alpine Journal*, vol. viii. p. 102.

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new; it is certainly the easiest way of getting off the mountain. (This route was followed a few days later by Messrs. F. W. Oliver and Hiatt C. Baker, with Alexander Burgener.) The party descended by the Col Monei to the Piantonetto refuge, having been out 18 hrs. 7 min., of which 2 hrs. 6 min. was spent in halts.

Les Jumeaux de la Roccia Viva, W. Peak (3,618 m. = 11,871 ft., Paganini). *August* 21.—Mr. G. Yeld, with François and Sylvain Pession, of Val Tournanche, made the first ascent of this fine peak. They left the Piantonetto refuge at 4.45 A.M., going round the Monte Nero spur to the Roccia Viva glacier. At 7.15 they reached the big rock under which they had sheltered from the thunderstorm in 1893, where they breakfasted. They reached the summit at 10.45, after an arduous climb, not unattended with risk. One piece about 45 min. from the top was very difficult. The day was splendid, but the wind on the summit cold. After a halt of 15 min. they went down in 20 min. to the col between this peak and the Roccia Viva, over difficult rocks plastered with snow in places, and there halted for lunch. Leaving at 12, they descended on the very edge of Messrs. Coolidge and Gardiner's couloir * (this year well grooved by stones in its centre), as near the rocks as possible, and sometimes upon them. When they had passed the big rock shelter before mentioned they raced on to the glacier, crossing two bergschrunds on the way, as hard as possible (for fear of stones), and reached it at 12.45—*i.e.* in 45 min. very fast going from their lunch place. They descended to the refuge by the Bocchetta di Monte Nero, and arrived at 2.5 P.M. Approximate halts during the day, 2 hrs. The eastern peak (11,776 ft., Paganini) was ascended by the same party in 1893. †

Punta Lavina, N. Summit (3,273 m. = 10,739 ft., Paganini's map); S. Summit from the N. (3,308 m. = 10,854 ft., Italian map). *August* 25.—Mr. R. S. Mushet, with Gabriel and Joseph Taugwalder, made the first recorded ascent of the N. Summit, and a new route up the S. Summit of this peak. Starting from the Col des Eaux Rouges, the party followed the N.E. arête to the top of the N. Summit, descended to the gap between the two summits, and gained the S. Summit by means of the broken rocks on the E. face or slope.

In the 'Cogne Climber's Guide,' p. 36, lines 1 and 2, transpose the words 'N.' and 'S.'

Col de l'Abeille (3,852 m. = 12,640 ft., Paganini's map). *September* 3.—The same party effected what seems a new descent from this pass to the Noaschetta glacier, climbing down the rocks under the Cresta Gastaldi in an easterly direction.

### *Mont Blanc District.*

Col des Courtes. *August* 2.—Messrs. G. Hastings, and A. F. Mummery, and Dr. J. Norman Collie left the Chalet de Lognan at

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* *Climber's Guide to the Mountains of Cogne*, p. 76; *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiv. pp. 484–5.

† *Alpine Journal*, vol. xvi. p. 508.

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12.40 A.M., and reached the foot of the steep slopes leading up to the pass at 5 A.M. The bergschrund proved very formidable, but this obstacle being passed, a rib of rock on the 'Courtes' side of the ice wall afforded a fairly easy way to the ridge (8.45). The traverse of this ridge to the point where it is lost in the upper plateau of the Glacier des Courtes occupied rather more than an hour. Owing to numerous halts the Col de Triolet was not reached till 10.30. The descent to Courmayeur was made by the usual Col de Triolet route.

COL SUPÉRIEUR DU TOUR NOIR. *August* 16.—The Rev. A. C. Downer, with François Mugnier and H. Schuler, started from Lognan at 3.30 A.M., reached the foot of the rocks S.W. of the Améthystes glacier at 5.55 A.M., halted for breakfast at some water at 7.40 A.M., and reached this pass at 10.40, or in about 6 hours' actual walking. Many crystals were found en route. This seems to be the first time that this pass has ever been attained. A snowstorm forced the party to descend by the same route, after building a cairn. Later, from the Col des Essettes ridge, they saw that the ascent to the pass on the E. side did not present serious difficulties.

COL DES ESSETTES. *August* 23.—The same party left the new Saleinaz Club hut at 8.10 A.M., and crossed the Col de Planereuse (3,063 m.) to the Planereuse glacier. They went round the head of this glacier, neither ascending nor descending very much, but preserving the contour lines on the Siegfried map, and crossed the ridge between the Planereuse and Darreï glaciers probably at a point which is just E. of the 'ï' in the word 'Darreï' on the Siegfried map (a route taken on August 10, 1893, by Monsieur H. Rieckel, with G. Coquoz and Pierre Dévouassoud, on their way up the Darreï). Crossing the head of the Darreï glacier they then reached (c. 1 P.M.) a point on the rocky ridge between the Darreï and La Neuva glaciers, which may be called the *Col des Essettes*, as this ridge has never been previously crossed by a traveller at any point. The exact position of the new pass cannot be precisely fixed, but possibly was that marked 3,222 m. or that marked 3,124 m. on the Siegfried map, the uncertainty arising from the fact that the party were unprovided with this map. Threatening weather forced them to abandon their scheme of attaining the Col Supérieur du Tour Noir from the E., so from the pass they went down the rocks in a direction following the course of the glacier, keeping the La Neuva glacier on their right, later descending to the glacier, and so reached the level of the Ferret valley.

### *Grand Combin District.*

PETIT MONT FORT (c. 3,100 m. = 10,171 ft.). *July* 9.—From the foot of the S. face Messrs. E. F. M. Benecke and H. A. Cohen climbed steep but easy rocks in ¾ hr. to the top. This whole face is rock, not partly snow, as shown on the map; the peak, too, is a double-headed rock peak, not a snow hump. From the top down to the col 3,026 m. took ¼ hr. over easy rocks; from there to the lake, down a shale couloir, 20 min. more.

The history of the peaks S. of the Mont Fort is as follows:—

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*Bec d'Aget* (2,983 m.).—Apparently easy to ascend from the side of the lake and from elsewhere, but apparently not climbed.

*Bec des Roxes* (3,225 m.).—A fine double-headed rock peak, with a stone-man on each summit.

Due S. of the above is a very marked rock needle, not shown on the map.

Then, due S. again, is the *Bec Termin* (3,052 m.).*

Pointes de Torbesse (3,050 m. = 10,007 ft.).—These are three in number, two close together and of nearly equal height, the third some way along the ridge to the S.W. This last is a curious rock needle, a good deal lower than the other two, but a striking object from the Sevreu Alp.

On July 10 Mr. E. F. M. Benecke went from the Sevreu Alp over grass and shale in 1¾ hr. to the W. foot of this peak, and climbed pretty straight up the rocks, which are decidedly interesting, in 1½ hr. to the top. He descended the S. face by rocks and a shale couloir in 1½ hr. to Le Crêt, reaching Fionnay in 1½ hr. more.

On July 12 the same gentleman, with Mr. Cohen, went from the Sevreu Alp over grass and débris in 2 hrs. to the col between the Pointes de Torbesse and the point 2,960 m. From there the party walked over snow and a few rocks in ½ hr. to the top of the highest Pointe de Torbesse.

From here they went over snow, keeping always a little on the N. side of the ridge, in 1 hr. 20 min. on to the W. ridge of the *Parrain* (3,262 m. = 10,702 ft.), getting to the top of the latter in 10 min. more. They descended by the S. face over débris, and reached Fionnay, *via* Le Crêt, in 2 hrs. 40 min. Between the Parrain and the Rosa Blanche there are at least three distinct peaks; all, however, looked quite easy.

Petit Mont Calme (3,229 m. = 10,594 ft.). *July* 13.—The same gentlemen went from Fionnay to the last rocks below the Col de Cleuson in 4 hrs. 5 min.; from there over snow, in ¾ hr., to the S. foot of the Petit Mont Calme, and then up by the S. arête (a good climb) in 1½ hr. They descended by the easy N. arête in 50 min. to the col between the two Monts Calme, and from there reached the Col de Cleuson in 20 min.

The Petit Mont Calme seemed easily accessible over débris on the W. face; the E. face is very steep. The Grand Mont Calme (3,211 m.) seemed accessible either from the S. or the W.

Mont Gelé by the S.E. Ridge (3,517 m. = 11,539 ft.). *July* 16.—The same gentlemen went from Chanrion over the Crête Sèche glacier in 2¼ hrs. to the foot of a broad couloir on the N.E. face of the Mont Gelé, and mounted by rocks in 1 hr. 5 min. to the frontier ridge. This they followed (on rocks practically the whole time) over the top of a lower peak to the top of the E. summit in 1 hr. Here they turned down on to the snow on the Italian side, and reached the main summit in about ½ hr. This route is no doubt longer than the ordinary

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xvi. p. 63, and *Echo des Alpes*, 1891, pp. 45–8.



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one, but, when the snow is bad, it is decidedly drier. People with time to spare might follow the ridge all the way to the W. summit.

La Serpentine from the S. (3,691 m. = 12,116 ft.). *July* 17.—The same gentlemen, as soon as they had reached the top of the Breney icefall (3 hrs. 40 min. from Chanrion), bore due N. up a pretty steep ice-slope (about 1 hr.'s step-cutting), and then up steep but easy rocks, varied by a short snow-slope, straight to the top (1 hr. 35 min.). They then followed the N. ridge over or round several little snow-peaks down to the Col de la Serpentine in 1 hr. 20 min.

Combin de Zessetta (4,078 m. = 13,380 ft.). *July* 21.—The same gentlemen from the upper plateau of the Corbassière glacier went S.E. over the face of the Grand Combin, striking the arête just E. of the snow hump 4,080 m., and following thence a broad snow ridge to the top (2 hrs. 35 min. in all). The descent by the same route took 55 min. There are no difficulties, but there is of course a certain amount of danger from falling ice.

*Arolla and Valpelline Districts.*

Dents des Bouquetins, South Peak (3,690 m., Swiss map; 3,691 m., Italian map = 12,110 ft.). *July* 18.— Mr. Alfred G. Topham, with Jean Maître and young Pierre Maurice, made the first ascent of this peak. Having on several occasions attempted the ascent on the Swiss side from Arolla, they determined to try the Italian face, the upper part of which had always looked to them impracticable. For this purpose they slept at the Stockje and crossing the Col de Valpelline arrived under the east face of the mountain at 5.20 A.M. From the glacier there appeared to be two chimneys leading up to the last rocks, the one S.W. and the other N.E. of the peak, the former apparently the more direct. The lower part of the ascent was made up an easy rock staircase for one hour. Here it was seen that the S.W. chimney would not go, so they made for the N.E. one, and ascended it for ¼ hr., until they were forced on to the rock wall on their right. They ascended straight up this to the main arête N. of the peak at a point a quarter of the distance between the S. peak and the point on the arête above the couloir gained by Mr. Topham in his ascent of the highest Bouquetins by the S. arête.* The E. face of the mountain is exceedingly steep, and does not resemble the W. face, which slopes away in snow and smooth rocks from the top of the ridge to the Arolla glacier. From here they followed the arête to the top of the S. peak in ¾ hr. (10 A.M.). They left again at 11 A.M. and descended by the same route as far as the chimney (1.30). Starting again at 2.15, they crossed the chimney and traversed on to a narrow ledge of rock and snow which runs under the rock wall of the peak above the easier rocks: this ledge leads on to the main S. arête of the S. peak at a 'plateau of loose stones' and snow mentioned by Mr. Barnes in his paper on an attempt on this peak in 1886† (3.30). From here they descended the arête to the 'band of snow' mentioned by Mr. Barnes, and then straight down the rocks to the N. of the conspicuous

* *Alpine Journal* vol. xiv. p. 499. † *Ibid.* vol. xiii. p. 534.

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couloir running up from the Glacier de Za de Zan and S. of the spur marked 3,097 on the S. map (5 P.M.). This route Mr. Topham had ascended on two previous occasions, on both of which he crossed over the point reached by Mr. Barnes's party into the big depression on the arête to its N. An outline sketch of this range accompanies the paper written by Mr. Barnes.* Mr. Topham's party reached Arolla at 7.25 P.M. This peak bears the local name of the Aiguille du Midi.

MONTE CERVO (3,430 m. = 11,253 ft., Italian map); COL BETWEEN THE RAJETTE (Swiss map) AND THE BEC DE CIARDONNET (3,347 m., I. map; 3,398 m., S. map), about 11,000 ft *July* 20.—The same party made these two expeditions. The position of the peak, well detached from the main chain, makes it a fine point of view. The party left Arolla at 2 A.M., and crossed the Col de la Vuignette and the Col de Chermontane. They descended the Glacier d'Otemma until they came under the rocks of the Tourme de Bouque (8.45). They crossed by these on to the névé above the ice-fall of the lateral glacier which descends from between the Gran Epicoun (I. map) and the Becca Rajette (I. map) or Bec d'Epicoun (S. map). They crossed this glacier and ascended to and crossed a minor col (10 45) between the Jardin des Chamois and the Becca Rajette. This col brought them on to the lateral glacier which leads to the Col de Ciardonnet. They crossed under the W. face of the Becca Rajette (12.30) and ascended a wall of ice and rocks to the col (2 P.M.). This col lies to the S.W. of 'the Rajette' of the S. map,† and is at the head of the névé of the Ciardonnet glacier. It is proposed to call it the COL DE LA RAJETTE. The party left the col at 2.30 P.M., and circled round the head of the glacier until they could ascend on to the N. arête of Monte Cervo. This they ascended (3.45). They left the summit at 5 P.M. by the same route, and regained the névé. The long ice-fall of the Ciardonnet glacier was easily turned by the avalanche snow and rocks on its left bank. A final descent over moraine brought them to the Verdecampe glen at the point where the Col de Ciardonnet route diverges. Bionaz was reached at 8 P.M.

The Monte Cervo had been previously ascended in August 1892 by MM. L. Kurz and H. Rieckel, with Justin and Joseph Bessart, of Chables. From the Bec d'Epicoun (3,527 m., S. map) they went up the Cervo by its easy snowy N. arête, which does not start from the Bec itself (as wrongly figured on the I. map), but from the point marked 'Rajette' on the S. map.‡

BECCA DES LACS (3,412 m. = 11,195 ft.); AIGLE ROUGE (3,037 m. = 9,964 ft.). *July* 23.—The same party made the first ascents of these points, which are prominent objects in the view from the Col du Mont Collon. They left Prarayé at 3.40 A.M. and ascended the Comba d'Oren for 1 hr. Thence they ascended steep grass slopes, always working to the S., and a final ¼ hr. straight up brought them to a

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. p. 529.

† Conway's *Central Pennine Guide*, p. 28.

‡ *S.A.C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xxviii. p. 308, and *Schweizer Alpen-Zeitung*, 1893, p. 31.



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big buttress descending from the Aigle Rouge. This was ascended to the top in 4 hrs. from Prarayé (7.40). They descended into the small col W. of the peak, and kept along the arête until the summit of the Becca des Lacs was gained (10.20). The party left again at 11 A.M., intending to descend straight down the W. face; but they were compelled to traverse in an easterly direction, and finally descended by an awkward chimney on to the small ridge which lies to the S. of the Lac Mort, unmarked on the Italian map (2.30). Prarayé was regained at 5 P.M.

PUNTA DEL DRAGONE (3,394 m. = 11,136 ft., 3,369 m. = 11,053 ft., and 3,230 m. = 10,598 ft., Italian map). *July* 24.—The same party made the first ascents of these points, which form the northern portion of the Punta di Fontanella ridge, but are unnamed on the Italian map. Punta del Dragone is a local name taken from the lake immediately under the peak on the Valtournanche side.* They left Prarayé at 5 A.M, and ascended the Valpelline to the top bridge, which they crossed, and then ascended the grass for 5 minutes, when a plank bridge was found. By means of this the torrent which descends from the Petit Glacier Bellaza was crossed. Thence they mounted rock and grass slopes to the foot of the broad buttress which is at the base of the W. arête, and marked 2,843 m. on the Italian map (7.40). Crossing over this they followed the rock arête, and finally proceeded for 1 hr. up a snow arête and face to the top of point 3,394 m. (11.15). They followed the ridge to point 3,369, and returning (12.15) descended the E. arête over point 3,230 on to the Col de Bellaza (1.30). Thence they ascended to the Col de Vofrède, and reached Breuil at 6.15 P.M.

L'EVÊQUE (3,738 m. = 12,264 ft.) FROM THE S.W. *August* 18.—Messrs. R. A. Robertson and Howard Barrett, the latter having with him Miss Agnes M. Barrett and Mr. Edmund H. Barrett, with the guides Jos. Quinadoz (Evolena) and Alois Tembl (Sulden, Tyrol), made the first ascent, as far as can be ascertained, of l'Evêque from its S.W. side. From the Col de l'Evêque they mounted a small glacier-covered eminence to its N.E., marked 3,393 m. on Siegfried's map. Hence they bore away a little to the left, intending to strike and ascend the great couloir that divides this side of the mountain into vertical halves. Finding the rocks steep, smooth, and iced, they altered their course and ascended directly for a short time, but, no improvement being gained, bore up to the right to gain the arête. This was adhered to for a time, until a rock was reached that looked far more formidable than it proved. It is, perhaps, 30 feet in height, smooth, and of a steep roof-like shape, inclined at an angle of not less than 45°. One climbs along its ridge, where there is but little hand- or foot-hold. Just after this the way led a little on to the S. face, and to a curious traverse along a narrow ledge under a more or less overhanging rock, very like that near the summit of the Zinal Rothhorn; thence to the top the route is obvious. Time, 2¾ hrs.; but it could

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xvi. p. 265.

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be done more quickly by a smaller party, and if the arête were followed from the beginning.

This is a rock climb throughout that can be recommended when the rocks are in good order, as it provides enough difficulty to give interest. Future parties by this route, if any, will be well advised, however, to go by the arête throughout.

### *Zinal District.*

Tête de Millon (3,698 m. = 12,133 ft.) from the S.W. *August* 21.—Mr. O. K. Williamson, with Pierre Epiney, of Zinal, ascended this peak by the S.W. arête from the Crête de Millon. They left Zinal at 5.23 A.M., and reached the Crête de Millon just N.E. of the point 3,216 m. (Swiss map) at 8.28 A.M. From this they again started at 8.55 A.M., at first keeping on the crest of the arête and then traversing slightly below the crest on its N.W. face, to avoid several gendarmes. There was some fresh snow on this face, which in places is exceedingly steep, and care is necessary, as the rocks slope the wrong way and are loose. Half an hour below the summit they were again able to take to the crest of the arête. Halted 25 min. to photograph, and reached the summit at 11.55 A.M. Left the summit at 1.20 P.M. Descended by the ordinary route to the Col de Tracuit (reached at 2.20 P.M.); regained Zinal at 4.25 P.M. The S.W. arête affords most interesting climbing.

### *Monte Rosa District.*

Dom and Täschhorn in One Day.—On July 26 Messrs. R. Corry and E. J. Garwood ascended the Dom and Täschhorn in one day for the first time. Mr. Corry writes—

'We left the Dom hut at 2.36 A.M., and reached the top of the Dom at 7.11. We took to the arête at 7.17, and got two-thirds of the way to the Domjoch without any difficulty in an hour. Here we were detained 20 min. by a gendarme which had to be climbed over, and we reached the Domjoch at 9.18, after two traverses on the E. side over very rotten rocks. Mr. Conway's estimate that we should require two hours to reach the Domjoch was, therefore, singularly accurate. After halting 20 min. on some rocks just above the pass, we got to the top of the Täschhorn at 10.37. The ridge throughout was in very good condition, and we did not find the climb at all difficult. The descent of the Täschhorn by the ordinary route in thick mist and snow was much more troublesome, and though we left at 10 46 we were not over the bergschrund till 2.15 P.M. We crossed the bergschrund by the aid of a spare cord fastened over an alpenstock and ice axe which were left last year. The mist was so dense that we were never able to see the other side from above, and of course we could form no opinion as to whether the bergschrund could be more easily crossed elsewhere. We reached Randa at 7.40, having halted 40 min. on the descent. The times were as follows: 4 hrs. Dom hut to Dom; 2 hrs. Dom to Domjoch; 1 hr. Domjoch to Täschhorn; 8 hrs. Täschhorn to Randa—all exclusive of halts. Our guides were César Knubel and Roman Imboden.'

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*Lepontine Alps.*

UNTER SCHIENHORN (2,904 m. = 9,528 ft.). *June* 18.—Mrs. and the Rev. George Broke, with Adolf Andenmatten, turned N. from the Geisspfad path at a point about 10 min. above the upper Messern hut, passed over the knoll marked 2,152 m., and crossing the Lengbach followed the whole length of the W. arête of this peak to the summit in 2½ hrs. No trace of any previous ascent could be found, and at Binn the peak was said never to have been climbed. In the descent the arête was followed for 20 min., and then the party descended on to the N.W. slopes, then covered with snow, and always bearing to the W. regained the Geisspfad path at Lochji in 1½ hr. from the top.

HÜLLEHORN (3,186 m. = 10,453 ft.) FROM THE S.—*August* 11. Mr. J. A. Luttman-Johnson, with the guides Augustin Gentinetta and Franz (Weisshorn) Biener, starting from Berisal, effected the ascent of this peak by a route distinct from any of those described in the 'Climbers' Guide to the Lepontine Alps' or in Mr. Coolidge's article in the 'S.A.C.J.,' vol. xxviii. p. 102. Having reached the Steinen Glacier, the party directed their course towards the Bocca Mottiscia, the notch in the frontier ridge between the Bortelhorn and the Punta Mottiscia, crossed the bergschrund at its foot, and cut steps up an ice-slope to the col. Thence they climbed to the Punta Mottiscia (3,156 m.) entirely by the rock ridge, which runs south-west from that mountain. At the Punta Mottiscia they quitted the frontier ridge, which here bends east to south-east, and descended to the gap (Hüllejoch) at the southern base of the Hüllehorn, which, viewed from this side, is an imposing tower of rock. Proceeding for a few steps on the snow to a point directly under the summit they climbed straight up the eastern face, gaining the actual crest a few feet to the south of the cairn. In all previous ascents the final rock tower appears to have been climbed by its northern ridge, but Messrs. Stable and Broke rightly conjectured * that the rocks could be scaled directly.

The party descended from the Hüllejoch to the Steinen Glacier by Messrs. Stable and Broke's route.†

Although the ascent by way of the Bocca Mottiscia and the S.W. ridge of the Punta Mottiscia is circuitous it may be recommended to climbers starting from Berisal as affording an interesting scramble on rocks, and undoubtedly very fine views.

Owing to the frequent halts rendered necessary by the thickness of the mist no times were taken.

*Bernese Oberland.*

ALETSCHHORN (4,182 m. = 13,821 ft.) BY THE W. ARÊTE. *July* 5.—The Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge and Mr. W. Larden, with Christian Almer, jun., and his brother Rudolf, made what seems to be a new route up the Aletschhorn. Starting from the Ober Aletsch Club hut, they went up the Ober Aletsch Firn till some way W. of the rocks

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xv. p. 550.

† *Ibid.* vol. xv. p. 550, and *S. A. C. J.* vol. xxviii. p. 103.

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marked 2,828 m. (1 hr.). Thence they mounted N.E. up the rather crevassed glacier (many concealed crevasses) which flows from the snowy depression just W. of the Aletschhorn and E. of the snowy hump (E. of the Sattelhorn) named 'Klein Aletschhorn' (c. 3,750 m.) by Dr. Schulz, and so gained the aforesaid depression (2 hrs. 55 min.). They then mounted the W. arête in all its length. A first snow slope was followed by several rocky pinnacles and towers, which had mostly to be turned by the snow at their N. base. Beyond these an easy snow ridge led to the summit (3 hrs. 25 min. from the gap). The descent was made by the S. arête.

The W. arête *may* have been previously climbed, but there seems to be no record of any such ascent, and the Belalp guides denied that it had ever been done before. The practicability of this route was pointed out many years ago by Dr. Schulz in his narrative of his ascent of the Sattelhorn and Klein Aletschhorn,* but his suggestion seems not to have been hitherto acted on. The new route enables a party to traverse the Aletschhorn, starting from and returning to the Ober Aletsch hut.

Räzli Pass. *August* 29.—Messrs. Frederick Corbett and Seymour Williams, and Miss Ethel Corbett, accompanied by Joh. Pieren, of Adelboden, crossed from the new inn on the Engstligenalp to the new Hotel du Parc at Montana, above Sierre, by way of the Ammerten Pass and the Ammerten, Räzli, and Plaine Morte Glaciers, quitting the last-named near the source of the Derzence, almost due N. of Tubang. From the Ammerten Pass the party followed the usual Wildstrubel route along screes to the E. moraine of the Ammerten glacier. They then left that route, crossed the moraine, and took to the Ammerten glacier *below* the icefall. Traversing the glacier in a S.W. direction, almost on a level and a little above the rocks forming the S. boundary of the Ammertenthäli, they gained the rocky waste S. of the Ammertenhorn. Bearing due S. till near the Räzli glacier, they went up the rocks under the W. peak of the Wildstrubel to that glacier, reached at about the point where is the contour line 2,700 m. on the Siegfried map. The Räzli glacier was then crossed in a S.W. direction to the point marked 2,930 m. W. of the Todthorn. Hence there are several routes to Montana, the most direct being that by the W. slope of Tubang, the Col de Pochet, and the summit of Zabona, accessible by a chimney 5 min. E. of the col. (Other routes are to keep E. of Tubang and Zabona and go by the Pépinet huts, or to keep along the W. bank of the Derzence, and follow the mule-path on the E. side of the ravine of the Liene.) Nine hours' leisurely walking (an hour might have been saved) was taken from one inn to the other.

Jägihorn (Baltschieder) (3,416 m. = 11,207 ft.). *July* 23.—This is the mountain ascended by Dr. Häberlin's guides (Peter and Johann Siegen), September 27, 1869.† It must not be confused with the Jägihorn ascended by Mr. Yeld in 1884.‡ It lies at the extremity of

* *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xix. p. 34.
† *Ibid.* vol. vi. p. 116.
‡ *Alpine Journal*, vol. xii. p. 123.

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the ridge which, starting from the Breitlauihorn, runs in a southerly direction, and separates the Innerer and Aeusserer Baltschieder Firn.

Mr. J. A. Luttman-Johnson, with the guides Augustin Gentinetta and Franz (Weisshorn) Biener, starting from the Hotel Nesthorn at Ried, reached the Baltschieder Joch in 3 hrs. 50 min. actual walking, and thence crossed the Aeusserer Baltschieder Firn in 1 hr. to the foot of the rock wall which supports the snow field lying below the depression between the Jägihorn and the next high point on the north. This rock-wall consists of slabs of the prevailing granitic gneiss, and was found to be in places coated with ice. By cracks and ledges, and readily avoiding the ice-coated portions, the party scaled the rocks and cut steps up the snow above in the direction of the rocks on the right, by which, and finally by the crest of the northern ridge, they reached the summit in ¾ hr. from the glacier.

A cairn was found on the top, but no cards or other means of tracing former visitors, and no ascent except by the Siegens seems to have been previously recorded.

### *Adula Alps.*

Pizzas d'Annarosa (3,002 m.= 9,850 ft.) from the N. *August* 22.—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer, jun., climbed this peak, the second highest of the 'Splügen Dolomites,' by two new routes.

From Splügen village they followed their last year's route * over the Alperschelli Pass to the Furcla d'Annarosa, 2,596 m. (3¼ hrs.). Then they skirted round the W. flank of the desired peak, mainly by great slopes of stones, till they reached its *N.W. flank*. Hence (keeping always to the W. of the ridge connecting the peak with the Furcla dil Lai Grand, 2,662 m.), they mounted a great couloir, then the rocks between the two steep gullies in which it ends. The rocks here were very rotten indeed, and covered with much fresh snow. Keeping to the left bank of the easternmost of the two gullies, the party, when some way below its upper end, bore to the right up a narrow crack in the rocks which led to a gap in a buttress, whence an easy traverse brought them to the gently-sloping plateau of stones which lies just W. of the highest summit. Going up this, and climbing an easy rock ridge, the summit of the peak was gained (3 hrs. 5 min., slow going, owing to the snow). Here was found a cairn with the cards of the two previous parties which had reached the peak—Herr Max Schlesinger, with Chr. Klucker, June 9, 1894, and Herr C. Hössly-Imthurn, with Peter Schwarz, of Splügen, July 23, 1894—but neither party stated on their cards by what route they had come up. According to 'Oe.A.Z.,' 1894, p. 183, the first party went up by the S.W. couloir and W. ridge, and according to 'Alpina,' vol. ii. p. 151, the second by the S. face and W. ridge. On the descent Mr. Coolidge and his guides retraced their steps down the final rock ridge and over the plateau till rather E. of the point at which they had gained it on the ascent. They now found themselves at the head of a broad snow-filled couloir which furrows the *N.E. flank*

* See *Alpine Journal*, vol. xvii. pp. 52-3.

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of the mountain. The highest rocks were very rotten, but lower down those on the left bank of the couloir and the snow in it were easily descended, the foot of the couloir being gained in 1 hr. 20 min. from the summit of the peak. Hence a traverse E. over a small glacier (above the Lai Grand) not marked on the Swiss map, then stones, snow-fields, and grass led to the Furcla dil Lai Pintg, 2,594 m. (¾ hr.). The views of the many-pinnacled ridge of the Annarosa were most striking during this traverse. Grass and stones led down to the highest Cufercal hut (40 min.), whence 1½ hr. very leisurely walking sufficed to reach Sufers, 2½ miles below Splügen, which was regained in a *char*.

Taken in connection with the explorations of this region made in 1893 by the same party,* this expedition completed their examination of the 'Splügen Dolomites.' A cairn (non-existent in August 1893) was seen on the Steilerhorn, and also one on the Cufercalhorn, both having been built in June 1894 by Herr Schlesinger (*loc. cit.*). With reference to certain remarks in Herr Hössly's interesting account of his attempts on the P. d'Annarosa in previous years,† it may be remarked that an apparent inconsistency between his views and Mr. Coolidge's as to the final ridge of the peak is easily solved. Herr Hössly approached it from the E., on which side it is a succession of difficult and fantastic rock towers. Mr. Coolidge referred to the sloping upper plateau at the W. end of the final ridge, seen by him in 1893 from the Alperschellihorn, and reached by him (as well as by his two predecessors) in 1894. It is quite certain that the nameless peak 2,641 m. (easily gained from the Furcla dil Lai Pintg) and the Piz Calandari (2,543 m.) are composed of the same Dolomite rock as the higher peaks of the 'Splügen Dolomites.'

### *Albula District.*

E. SURETTAHORN (3,039 m. = 9,971 ft., S. map; 3,021 m. = 9,912 ft., Italian map). *August* 25.—Mr. Coolidge, with Christian Almer, jun., made the second ascent of the peak by a new route. Starting from the village of Splügen they followed their track up the W. Surettahorn, 3,025 m. (ascended by them on August 20), as far as the snowy depression between it and the point marked 2,922 m. on the S. map (3½ hrs). Thence they traversed round the head of the extensive Suretta glaciers, crossing two rocky spurs, but keeping always above the séracs, and so gained the foot of the rocky spur running N. from the desired peak (1 hr.). By the easy broken rocks of this spur they easily gained the highest ridge (25 min.), just between the two small cairns built by Dr. L. Darmstädter and Dr. Helversen, with J. and G. Stabeler, on June 28, 1894. That party ‡ had gained the summit by way of the shattered N.E. ridge from Piz La Mutalla, and descended by the steep S.E. rocky face to the Emet glen.§ Both parties were con-

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xvii. pp. 52–4.

† *S. A. C. Jahrbuch*, vol. xxix. pp. 303–9.

‡ See *Alpina*, vol. ii. p. 132.

§ For an attempt on the peak from the S. see *Rivista Mensile*, 1892, pp. 314–5.

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vinced that the W. peak of the Surettahorn is certainly higher than the E. one, so that for the latter the figures given on the Italian map are to be preferred to those on the Swiss map. The first party named the peak 'Ferrerahorn,' or 'Piz Ferrera,' but for several reasons it is better to retain the name of 'E. Surettahorn,' proposed by Herr Imhof in his excellent 'Itinerarium d. S.A.C., 1893–5,' p. 205.

After enjoying the wonderful view which extended from the Mönch to the Ortler, the party of August 25 returned by the same route to the foot of the N. spur (¼ hr.), then completed the traverse of the Suretta glaciers to the wide opening (2,712 m.) N. of Piz La Mutalla (½ hr.). Stones and grass led down to the level of the Emet glen, the stream in which was crossed (1 hr. 40 min.) in order to gain the hamlet of Canicül or Inner Ferrera (¾ hr.). This is certainly the climber's route from Splügen to Avers.

Averser Weissberg (3,044 m. = 9,987 ft.). *August* 30.—The long limestone ridge of which this is the culminating point forms one of the most striking features in the Avers valley. The peak has often been reached by travellers, but the route taken seems always to have been direct from Cresta on the S. by way of the stony hollow between the points 3,041 and 2,970.

Mr. Coolidge and Almer struck out a new and quite as easy a route, which has the advantage of enabling a traveller to climb this fine point on his way from Avers to Mühlen, on the Julier road. Starting from Cresta they mounted by Hubelboden and Am Bühl through the Thäli glen to the pass at its head, 2,802 m. (2¼ hrs), called Thälijoch by Herr Imhof.* Descending on the Mühlen side for a short way (13 min.), in order to avoid a precipitous spur, they then bore W. up stones, small ice and snow slopes, and stones again, to a rocky hump between 2,987 m. and 3,041 m. (40 min.). Thence the easy broken rock ridge (the usual route) was followed over 3,041 m. (¼ hr.) to 3,044 (5 min.), now crowned by a great cairn, built in 1894 by Herr Reber (the Federal engineer engaged in the new triangulation of the district). The view included the Schreckhorn, the Mischabelhörner, and the Ortler, as well as the village of Cresta.

The party descended by the yellowish stones on the N.E. face of the peak to the small glacier flowing into the Starlera glen, crossed this glacier from W. to E., traversed the rocky spur coming from the 'hump' above mentioned, and regained their former route (35 min. to the point below the Thälijoch where the knapsacks had been left). Thence they descended by the Gronda and Faller glens to Mühlen (2¼ hrs.).

### *Bernina District.*

Monte Rosso di Scerscen (3,967 m. = 13,016 ft.) *August* 23.—Mrs. Main, with the guides Roman Imboden, of St. Nicholas, and Wieland Wieland, of St. Moritz, ascended the Italian side of this peak by a route which differs in some respects from routes previously taken, and is likely to be adopted in future ascents. They followed Messrs. B. Wainwright's

* *Itin. d. S.A.C.* 1893–5, p. 168.

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and E. Garwood's 1886 route* for about one-third of the distance from the bergschrund, ascending a rib of rock close to and west of a couloir swept by falling stones. On reaching the top of a precipitous rock, by means of a steep chimney and a rather difficult traverse of 5 or 6 ft., their route deviated from those previously taken, and continued to follow the rib till a short distance below the main crest of the mountain, which was gained by an easy traverse to the east, the highest point being arrived at by the main ridge from the Schneehaube. Previous parties ascended from the top of the chimney by stone-swept gullies, and arrived eventually on the summit by the ridge running towards Piz Bernina. The mountain was covered with a large quantity of fresh snow. The descent (the first ever made down any part of the east face) was by the same route. At no time were the party exposed to danger from falling stones.

The same party repeated the ascent by this route five days later. The rocks were then free from snow, and the ascent from the bergschrund to the summit took but 2 hrs. 20 min. On this occasion they proceeded along the arête to the summit of Piz Bernina. Though this arête affords a fine climb it is by no means a very hard one when the route is skilfully chosen.

The tariff prices (150 frs. for the Scerscen and 190 frs. for the traverse of the arête to the Bernina) are absurd overcharges.

### *Langkofel Group.*

Plattkofel from the S.S.W. *July* 12.—Mr. Norman-Neruda climbed this peak by a new route from the S.S.W. It is not difficult, but is certainly more interesting than the ordinary way. Those who wish to enjoy the remarkable view from the summit of the Plattkofel are advised to go up by the new route and down by the usual one. The way is obvious from the first.

### *Rosengarten Group.*

Eastern and Western Grasleitenspitzen. *August* 1.—Mr. and Mrs. Norman-Neruda left the Grasleiten hut at 8.30 A.M., reached the Molignon Pass at 9.11, left it at 9.19, and stood on the summit of the 'Eastliest' Grasleitenspitze (Östlichste Grasleitenspitze) at 9.26. Rest till 9.50. They then went down in a northerly direction, turned to the left, and traversed into the gap between the 'Eastliest' and the Eastern Grasleitenspitzen (10.20–10.40). The ordinary way from here is described as leading to the left towards the summit, but the party went up by a chimney beginning at the gap, then traversed to the right, ascended a rock-wall, and again traversed to the right until they stood at the foot of a yellow wall. They now climbed straight up (very difficult) until they reached a hole in the mountain. Here it was necessary to climb out to the right, and over an overhanging block on to easier rocks above. The summit-ridge was reached shortly after, and turning to the left the party stood on the summit at 11.35.

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xiii. pp. 127, 300 *sqq.*

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At 12.15 they proceeded to climb the Western Grasleitenspitze, but, owing to the uncertainty of the information received as to the correct line of ascent, they climbed up over a difficult chimney and partly overhanging rock-wall to the S.S.W. of the summit, instead of taking to the East arête. Summit, 1.45–2 P.M. The same way was taken on the descent. Eastern peak, 3.20–3.40. Eastliest peak, 5.30–5.45. Molignon Pass, 5.49–5.52. Grasleiten hut, 6.12.

THE TWO HIGHEST VALBUONKÖPFE. *August* 2.—These peaks are separated from the Grosse Valbuonkogel by the Valbuonkopf Scharte, and from the Grasleitenspitzen by the Grasleiten valley. Mr. and Mrs. Norman-Neruda left the Grasleiten hut at 9.23 A.M., and reached the Valbuonkopf Scharte at 10.36. Left at 11.30, climbed into a chimney on the right, and up it, until they had to leave it and continue the way over an extremely brittle wall. It was then possible again to take to the chimney. They then got on to the shale, and reached the summit of the higher tower over fairly easy rocks (12.20 P.M.). Left at 1.20 for the gap between the two towers. Here it was necessary to take a very long step on to the rocks of the second tower. Then they traversed upwards from left to right, and reached the second summit, over easy rocks, at 1.32. Left at 1.42, returned to the higher tower, arrived on the Valbuonkopf Scharte at 2.30, left 2.55, and regained the Grasleiten hut at 3.25.

THE TWO GRASLEITENTHÜRME. *August* 4.—These two towers are separated from the Western Grasleitenspitze by the Juni Scharte, and seen from the Grasleiten valley lie to its left. Mr. Norman-Neruda left the Grasleiten hut at 10.46 A.M., and made for a perpendicular chimney easily discernible from the hut. He reached its lower end at 10.55, and left it at 11.15. The first few yards were very difficult, and after having climbed up some 20 mètres, it was necessary to traverse out of the chimney on to the very steep rock-wall on its right. He then climbed straight up, until a perpendicular rock-wall made further progress in that direction impossible. He then turned to the left, climbed up a difficult, partly overhanging chimney, and traversed from the right to the left. This traverse is very exposed and difficult. Its length is about 25 mètres, the same as the first traverse, so that Mr. Norman-Neruda at its end found himself nearly perpendicularly above the first chimney. Here he took to the stone couloir coming down from the Juni Scharte and found a way up to the latter. He then ascended the rocks to the left, in places extremely brittle, and stood on the western summit at 1.8 P.M. Left at 1.22. It was now necessary to climb into the gap between the two towers, a not easy task, owing to the instability of the rocks. From the gap upwards the climb to the summit of the eastern tower is very difficult and exposed, though short. Eastern tower, 1.40–1.45. Juni Scharte, 2.20–2.35. End of first chimney, 3.35–3.50. Hut, 3.55.

The above-mentioned expeditions were accomplished without guides. Herr Treptow, of Berlin, with the guide Anton Mühlsteiger, of Inner Pflersch, made the second and third expeditions on the same day.

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*Central Caucasus.*

BAKH (11,739 ft.). *July* 23 *and* 24.—This is the name given by the natives to a mountain above Betsho on the S. side of the river Dobra, or Dola-Chala, which flows from the Betsho Pass past Maseri.

Messrs. J. Collier, Newmarch, and Solly, starting from the Gul camping-place, and passing through Maseri, crossed the river by a bridge above the village, and followed its right bank for some distance till they reached the first large valley, which has a glacier stream issuing from it, by which they ascended to a gîte near the foot of the glacier Leaving the gîte at 3.30 A.M. on the 24th, and ascending the glacier in 1½ hr., they reached a conspicuous snow saddle on the N. side of the peak. Turning to the S. in another 1½ hr., by a steep snow slope, and then by an easy snow arête, they reached the summit, from which magnificent views of Dongusorun and the mountains W. of Betsho were obtained. The descent was made by the same route. No trace of any previous ascent could be found.

THE BEAR PASS (about 10,600 ft.). GUL TO MESTIA. *July* 28.—The same party left the Gul camping-place and in 2½ hrs. reached the low pass S.S.E. of Gulba.* Diverging from the route taken in 1893, they then descended in 2½ hrs. more the steep slope leading to the névé of the Chalaat glacier, and in about 4 hrs. more reached the end of the glacier. The glacier at first falls towards the N.N.E., and then turns sharply to the S.E., and in rounding the corner it is best to keep a good deal to the left, then after the bend to descend the last icefall near the right bank.

There is no footpath from the end of the glacier, and one awkward corner at the beginning of the woods had to be turned by a struggle through the trees; but very soon a track was found close to the river bed, which continued until the meadows above Mestia were reached. A party could go from the Gul camp to Mestia in about 12 hrs. of actual walking.

This is a much finer route than that of 1893, and the scenery is exceedingly grand.

MACHKHIN (11,700 ft.). *August* 7, 8, *and* 9.—Messrs. Solly and Newmarch, with a native hunter named Moratvi, left Latal on August 7, and after crossing the river Ingur ascended by a steep path through beautiful woods for about 5 hrs., and then for about 2 hrs. more along the slopes of a grassy ridge to a smooth grassy plateau almost due north of Machkhin. Leaving this at 4.30 A.M. on August 8, and keeping to the left of a rocky ridge which runs down between the central and easternmost of the three glaciers on the north side of the mountain, the party ascended principally over easy rocks until at about 10.15 they reached a snow arête immediately under the summit, which was gained at 11.20. The summit is a short snow ridge of almost equal height for over a hundred yards. The party left the top about noon, and descending the snow slopes by a series of

* *Alpine Journal*, vol. xvii. p 169

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glissades were clear of the snow by 3.30 P.M. After a halt of an hour and a quarter the stream was followed until 7.45 P.M., when it was too dark to go further.

The next morning they started at 4.30, and reached Lentechi at 2.30 P.M. For parts of the way a very good path was followed, but, owing to several bridges having been washed away, it was impossible to follow it throughout, and the torrent had to be crossed several times. The summit is nearly due east of the Leila, and is probably the highest point between the Leila and the Latpar Pass.

The names of the principal peaks from the Leila to the Latpar Pass were given by Moratvi as Leila, Lakora, Machkhin, Dadash, and Lasil.

Mr. Collier started on this expedition, but being unwell was unable to complete it, so went round on horseback over the Latpar Pass to Lentechi.

The party also made an attempt on the S. peak of Ushba by the rocks on the S.E. face, but, after reaching an estimated height of 12,000 ft., were turned back by a couloir which, in the then state of the mountain, it would have been dangerous to cross. Any further attempt on Ushba was prevented by unsettled weather.

SVYETGAR (13,482 ft.).—This name is given in the 1-verst map to the highest peak between the Mestia and Thuber valleys, south of the upper part of the Leksur glacier, figured in the illustration from M. de Déchy's photograph in vol. xiii. p. 504 of this Journal. Starting from a camp about an hour above Mestia, on the left bank of the torrent from the Chalaat and Leksur glaciers, the party followed the track of the Mestia Pass to the point where it leaves the left bank of the Leksur glacier to cross to the north, then keeping on the south side of the glacier, camped, after about 8 hrs. actual walking, on some grassy rocks on the left or south bank of the glacier. Starting before daylight next morning, the party ascended the glacier for a short distance, and then turned southwards up a glacier (unnamed) between Svyetgar and a point marked on the map 1,672, and ascended this to a snow saddle north-west of the peak. From this it seemed possible to ascend by a continuous arête, mostly of snow or ice, to the top, but, after cutting many hundred steps, and reaching a height estimated to be nearly 13,000 ft., the party had to turn, owing to the excessive steepness of the slopes and the very thin covering of snow over the ice, the ice itself not being thick enough for good steps to be cut in it. An attempt was made to continue the ascent by the rocks, but these were found to be glazed with ice and dangerous. The party reached their higher camp just before dark, and spent the second night half an hour lower on a rhododendron-covered slope, and reached camp next morning about 9 o'clock.

Another attempt on this mountain and several other expeditions were frustrated by the weather, which was, if anything, worse than in 1893.

[Many 'New Expeditions' in the Alps and in Norway are held over till the February number.]

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