

sations. There is ample room as yet for years of mountain exploration, with a total absence of conventional hotel life; and when I think of Norway, I always think as well of many kindnesses received from every class of people there.

Memories of Justedals shining snowfields, of rugged Jotun mountains, or sunlit winter landscapes, all bring with them unbidden, happy recollections of a quaint, if quiet, life among a simple kindly people, which only grow more pleasant as they mingle in the past.

VAL FORMAZZA REVISITED.

By A. CUST.

WHILE staying at Binn and Tosa Falls, in 1897, I explored the ridge between the Forno Group and the Scatta Minojo. All the cols on the ridge are easy and agreeable on the Lebendun side when there is plenty of snow, but mostly steep and disagreeable in the upper part, with rickety *débris* gullies, on the Devero side. The foot of all of them is reached on the latter side from the Upper Alp Forno by a pleasant ascent, with a good view of Monte Rosa over the vista of the valley, to a large tarn, omitted on the map, which this year was partly full of snow, and on that account taking beautiful colours. This tarn lies in a bay in the mountains formed by side ridges, of which the longer separates it from the recess of the Scatta Minojo route. Above the tarn are snow slopes followed by *débris*.

Beginning from the N.W. the first gap, which I visited from both sides,* although easy enough, is too high and disagreeable to make it of use as a passage. The next gap, which I reached from the Devero side, is not so high, but steeper and more disagreeable. From it I reached (July 31) a rock summit to S.E., on which I found neither cairn nor place for one. It is the highest point after the Forno group, and I suggest for it the name Punta di Curzalma, from the hut below. After this another snow-ravine follows on the Lebendun side, at the head of which, on either side, are two remaining passes of about equal height, lower than those previously mentioned, but still considerably higher than the Scatta Minojo. Of these, the first (in the same order) I reached from Andermatten in 1879, and this year crossed from the Devero side. A steep and rotten *débris* gully leads to it on this side, terminating in a little cul de sac in the rocks, allowing escape (unless previously avoided by diverging to the left) by a curious hole, through which I dragged myself extended flat on the ground. The other, and last, pass in order is the most practicable, but the direct passage of it

* Also the higher gap S.E. of pt. 2,904, on which summit I found an engineers' cairn.

(which was that taken by myself) leads, on the Devero side, from the recess of the Scatta Minojo. It can, however, be reached from the recess of the snow-tarn by mounting, by an easy grass and shale ascent, to the intervening side ridge near its junction with the main ridge, whence a traverse may be made to the col without intermediate descent. This last course being taken, the pass is the only one over the ridge offering any inducement as an alternative to the Scatta Minojo. I suggest the name Passo di Curzalma, north and south, for this and its companion pass.* In ascending the low summit between them, I inspected a singular block of rock some twenty-five feet high, which stands up on its end, resembling that on the Gallo Pass. It seems difficult to account for its being perched on the ridge-top in that position.

Passes at the Head of the Gries Glacier—Siedel Rothhorn Pass.—('Alpine Journal,' vol. xviii., pp. 175, 176). In revisiting the Siedel Rothhorn Glacier, I found the best course to be to traverse obliquely up to the Gemsland plain from above the lower hut (Zum Stock) instead of going on to the Zum Sand hut. The glacier appeared little changed after an interval of 15 years. The pass at its head lies, not as described in 'Climbers' Guide' (p. 56), but between the Siedel Rothhorn and the terminal point of the rock ridge between it (the glacier) and the Hohsand Glacier, this point, to which the figures 3,151 on the I. map apparently apply, being only a few feet from and above the lowest gap of the pass.†

Gries-Hohsand Joch.—('Alpine Journal,' vol. ix., p. 369).‡ From the last-mentioned pass is a gradual descent for some little distance to the broad and undefined depression which forms the passage connecting the Gries and Hohsand Glaciers, and which may be more correctly described as lying between the Blindhorn and the gap at the head of the Siedel Rothhorn Glacier (not the Siedel Rothhorn, as in 'Climbers' Guide'). The name Siedel Rothhorn

* All these routes pass or come near the Curzalma hut, whence to Tosa Falls three courses are open:—(1) by the Neufelgiu Pass, the shortest way in time from Lago Srur; (2) by the Gallo Pass, the shortest way from the Lago Vannino; (3) by Fruthwald or Canza, longer than the last, but preferable in bad weather.

† 2,480 I. Map denotes a cairn on the above ridge part way up the glacier, but must be a misprint (for 2,980 ?), there being no point on the glacier so low. It is unfortunate that the S. map, ordinarily reproducing the I. map across the frontier in its own excellent style, goes quite astray this side of the Siedel Rothhorn ridge by deserting its guide. But the discrepancy between the two maps on the Hohsand and Gries Glacier frontier shows that there is still surveying work to be done. The position even of peaks like the Blindhorn, Siedel Rothhorn, and Bettelmatienhorn is not yet settled, the variations amounting to from 150 to 250 mètres, while on the south side of the Gries Glacier the two frontier lines overlap to a maximum extent of $\frac{3}{4}$ kilomètre.

‡ The Lebendun Pass there mentioned is over the watershed between the glacier streams which flow respectively into the Hohsand and Lebendun ravines. The latter, which takes part of the névé from the Ofenhorn, and has an upper and lower outlet (see *Ibid.*, vol. xviii., p. 174) should be called Lebendun Glacier.

Pass accordingly seems more appropriate to the latter passage, and for the other the name Gries-Hohsand Joch is now suggested.*

Blindenhorn.—In driving through Reckingen (down the valley), I was curious to observe the appearance of this mountain. The vista of the ravine first discloses the Blinden-Joch, from which in advancing along the road the ascending ridge comes gradually into view, till a culminating point is reached, which, as it fell away again beyond it, I was convinced was the summit of the mountain; but just as the village was left I saw the true summit begin to appear from behind this to the right, and then recognised the other as the second summit (pt. 8,334), while lower and to the left was the third summit (see 'Alpine Journal,' vol. xviii., 176, note). The gable end of snow on the latter gives it prominence as seen from the north—from the Furkahorn, for instance—and owing to the defect of the earlier map it has been ascended from the Gries Glacier Pass by mistake for the highest point (S.A.C. Jahrbuch, xx., p. 169, where curiously no mention is made of the higher of these two inferior summits).† The mountain is known to Italians as Blinnenhorn, and the people at Tosa Falls Hotel, who spend most of the year at Reckingen, assured me that this and not Blinden was right for both mountain and valley.‡

Kleine Banhörner.—Between the Ban ravine and the broad basin of the Ban Glacier, and parted from the former by a lofty ridge of rocks over which the only passage is at the upper end, is a narrow ravine of the most desolate description, inaccessible from the Neufelgiu ravine below, unless it be by an unenviable battle with the torrent course. At its head rise twin peaks, and entering the ravine from the Hohsand Glacier by the gap between the two, I first inspected the N. summit from the top of the ridge over the Ban ravine,§ and finding it not suitable for a solitary person, re-

* The route to this pass from the Blindenhorn is ascribed in 'Climbers' Guide' to Rev. S. Taylor, as well as the possibility of the first passage of the pass itself (pp. 54, 56), on the occasion of his first ascent of the Blindenhorn ('Alpine Journal,' ii., 410), who, however, informs me that he could not have crossed the pass, his object being to reach the Hohsand Glacier from the summit of the mountain by the quickest and easiest route. This course probably avoided the pass altogether, below which lies a crevassed glacier of which the local *chasseur* with him would no doubt be aware, and followed the easy snow slopes leading directly down from the summit to the Hohsand Glacier.

† *Ibid.*, xiv., p. 605, notices an expedition from the Gries Pass to the Blindenjoch, including Gross u. Klein Blinnenhorn, without further definition of the latter.

‡ They also told me that Val'dösch Pass, as applied to the passage from the Gries Glacier to Val Corno, is erroneous, Valdäsch or Faldäsch being the local name for the St. Giacomo Pass and pastures. This note is endorsed by Herr Waeber, to whose courtesy I am further indebted for the following information. Blinden and Blinnen are the same, Blinden being the correct, Blinnen the dialect form. Ulrich, *Seitenthäter des Wallis*, 1850, writes Blinnenhorn and -thal. Woerl's Map 1835 has no name, Weiss 1800 'im Blinen.' March- and Markhorn are the same, being respectively South and North German; Marek is wrong.

§ The pass crossed by me at the head of this ravine ('Alpine Journal,' vol. x., p. 98) immediately abuts on this peak. The path to this ravine from the

descended to the glen, and reached from it the other (pt. 2,948). This is quite easy of ascent, and has an agreeable rounded top with vegetation and even bluebells in flower. There was no trace of previous ascent. I had often speculated which was the higher of the two peaks, but concluded that the advantage lay with that whose height was given on the map, and which once bore the name of Banhorn, now assigned on the map to the culminating peak on the range, otherwise Thälhorn, 3,028 m.* I was curious therefore as I neared the summit to watch the other point, but it rose with me to the last, and so far as I have means of determining, the northern peak seems slightly the higher. Returning to the ravine, I explored for a short way the rocky ridge parting it from the Ban Glacier, the top being pleasant to traverse with nooks of vegetation among finely-weathered rocks. I reached Val Vannino by the pass adjoining the Gemsgrat, 2,978 m. on the east, for which, as the only pass from that valley to the Ban Glacier, I suggest the name Gemsthor.†

The further explorations which I had promised myself were cut short by the unhappy weather which closed the season, and, finally, after I had patiently waited for weeks, hoping to tire it out (I paid a record visit of nearly six weeks at Tosa Falls!), drove me away defeated. The hotel is enlarged and improved since my early visits, and *chef* and waiter play innumerable games of bowls in front, with Revenue guards looking on. Who would have expected to see a waiter in a white tie here? But Madame Zertanna had broken the apparition to me by introducing him as her son. Like others of his class he had followed the sensible habit of going to our country to learn English. A kinder or more considerate hostess is not in the Alps. Morning after morning she called me herself, hoping against hope like me; if the sky was *couvert* at one window it was not at another; a consultation was held at my

Neufelgiu hut which then existed seems, so far as I could observe from below, to have disappeared, and a fresh one to have been constructed, traversing a cliff face with a somewhat precarious appearance. Persons descending should not reckon on finding a path in this direction, and the ground is awkward in parts, but the steep declivity of grass and scrub in which the ravine falls below the foot of the Neufelgiu ravine may be directly descended.

* The first ascent of this peak was made by three soldiers employed in making cairns in advance of the new military survey. Pietro Zertanna accompanied them to within a few feet of the summit, when the rope being too short for four he had to stop. In his attempt on the Neufelgiu horn ('Alpine Journal,' vol. xviii., p. 174, foot note) I find that he did not reach the summit.

† Signori Gerla, Casati, and Turrini, with a guide, August 6, 1896, found by it the only available access to the glacier from Tosa Falls. They made the first Italian ascents of the Gemsgrat (ascended by me, together with the east summit of the ridge over the Neufelgiu Pass, September 6, 1880, on which occasion I reached the glacier by Messrs. Gardiner and Pilkington's snow couloir from the Neufelgiu ravine part way up the final ascent to the pass; ('Alpine Journal,' vol. ix., p. 63), and left it by the Gemsthor, and pts. 2,926 (*Ibid.*, vol. xviii., p. 169) and 2,931 (reached by me 1881), for which last two respectively they propose the names Punta di Costone and Punta di Lebendun (Visitors' Book at Tosa Falls).

door, and if I turned out into the cold and darkness, on my lonely way, she bid me *au revoir* as she stood in the doorway, light in hand. These were the lucid intervals; at other times, day after day unchanging, the pitiless clouds seethed up from the lower valley, driving the spray from the Falls the wrong way. Then it veered round, and blew down the Fall, so that you could cross the bridge dry, and you prophesied a week of north winds. But they came with fresh snow, and lasted two days. The weather exhausted epithets, passing from *cattivo* to *bruto*, and thence to *tempo di diavolo*, where it remained. At this rate it would not be worth while to go to the Alps at all.

Tosa Falls, with its many minor and accessible peaks, is good training ground for those who like to begin by getting hill legs. The pedestrian, also, who likes the hillside off the track, can here enjoy with ease a close insight into the world of snow and glacier. You are said to be able to drive a cow to the top of the Blindenhorn (two calves, by the way, climbed the Campanile Alla Chiesa, and when vainly searched for one of them was sighted looking out from the bells!) which offers to the unsatiated in mountain views an exceptionally good view of the Oberland. Italian undergraduates coming up for the ascent thereof are to be seen in the hotel passage with held-up feet shoeing each other with wondrous mechanical appliances.

The Hohsand Glacier is the recognised highway between here and Binn. This season, two minutes after putting on the rope, one of the local 'guides,' in constant acquaintance with the glacier, while conducting a party, two of whom were young ladies, suddenly disappeared down a crevasse, where, wedged in by his pack, he could not free himself. The gentleman of the party had to unrope himself and haul him out.*

IN MEMORIAM.

EDWARD SHIRLEY KENNEDY.

ANOTHER link has been broken in the chain which binds the present generation of mountaineers to the cherished memories of the past. Edward Shirley Kennedy—one of our founders and our second President—died in Devonshire on the first of March, 1898, in the eighty-first year of his age.

Kennedy was the son of John Hadfield Kennedy, of Snaresbrook, and was born in 1817. He was educated at King's College, London. The father died when the son was only sixteen, leaving him amply, even abundantly, provided for. His friends desired

* In descending Val Antigorio I inspected the handsome new Hotel Veschi at S. Rocco; it is fitted up with an unusual taste and refinement which merits encouragement. At Baceno the Agnello has given place to a more roomy Albergo Devero, but the *ménage* is still primitive.