

ing themselves of Mr. Hadow's capability to undertake so dangerous an adventure. On this point they consulted Mr. Hudson, and he gave them the most satisfactory assurances. They then increased the number of guides by engaging Michel Croz.

On Thursday at 5h. 35m. A.M., the adventurers quitted Zermatt. At the express desire of their father, the two young Tauggwalds accompanied them. They carried a three days' supply of provisions. They bought no rope in the village, as a sufficient stock had been deposited at the chapel on the Lac Noir. But repeated inquiries were afterwards made of Mr. Whymper why he did not take some iron-wire rope, invented by Mr. Hudson, which made a part of his baggage. To this Mr. Whymper simply replies, that he never saw it, nor heard of it until after the catastrophe. The rope which the party actually carried consisted of 200 feet of the kind approved by the Alpine Club; of 150 feet of another kind, reputed even stronger; and 200 feet of a thinner and weaker cord, which Mr. Whymper had formerly been in the habit of using.

On the first day of the ascent their progress was very leisurely, but by noon they had gained a point on the north side of the mountain about 11,000 feet above the sea. Here they fixed their tent, while Croz and the two Tauggwalds went forward as pioneers, so as to save time on the following day.

They returned after awhile with the welcome intelligence that they had encountered no insurmountable difficulties, and that if the Englishmen had accompanied them, they might easily have ascended to the summit, and returned to their tent in the evening. The rest of the day was spent in admiring the glorious prospect, in warming themselves in the sun, and in pleasantly chatting. The sunset was indescribably splendid, and everything promised the adventurers a brilliant morrow.

Before night closed in, Hudson prepared some tea, and Whymper coffee, and each incased himself in the sack or bag that, in Alpine excursions, replaces a proper bed. Mr. Whymper, Lord Douglas, and the Tauggwalds occupied the tent; the others preferred to rest in the open air. But it was midnight before the rocks and chasms ceased to echo their shouts, songs, and laughter. They were happy, and none of them apprehended the slightest peril.

Before dawn they arose and commenced their march, with the exception of the younger Tauggwald, who went no further. At 20 minutes past 6 they had attained an altitude of 12,800 feet, and halted for half an hour. Then they continued the ascent without interruption until 59 minutes past 9, when they had arrived at a height of 14,000 feet. They paused here for fifty minutes. Up to this point they had escalated the northern side of the mountain, and had made no use of their rope.

Sometimes Whymper led the way, and sometimes Hudson. They had reached the base of that portion of the peak which, seen from Zermatt, appears perpendicular, and which proved wholly impracticable. By common consent they now ascended for some distance by the ridge, one of whose extremities inclines towards the village; then they turned to the right, and faced north-west.

They had changed their order of march: Croz moved at the head; Whymper followed; then Hudson, Hadow, Douglas, and, finally, Tauggwald and his son. The utmost caution and steadiness now became indispensable. At certain points