

they could scarcely find the slightest stay or support. In the fissures and crevasses of the rock a hard snow lay encrusted, and the rock itself was clothed with a thin layer of ice. Nevertheless, a mountaineer or an Alpine club-man could accomplish the passage.

But here they discovered that Mr. Hadow was not sufficiently familiar with this kind of labour ; at every moment one or other had to run to his assistance. No proposition, however, was made to leave him behind, and, in fact, the difficulty he felt in advancing arose from inexperience, and not from weakness or fatigue.

Mr. Hudson, meanwhile, performed the entire ascent without requiring or receiving succour. And this difficult stage of the enterprise was of no very extended duration. The space traversed did not exceed 300 feet in elevation ; at its extremity the inclination somewhat diminished ; and in order to gain the summit, Whymper and Croz quitted their party and ran forward to the topmost point of the Matterhorn. It was then 40 minutes past 1 P.M. ; ten minutes later, all the members of the adventurous band stood in safety on the icebound peak.

With respect to the physical condition of each adventurer, Mr. Whymper asserts that none appeared fatigued, or complained of any exhaustion. In truth, they had not been more than ten hours *en route*, and their progress had been very slow and leisurely. On Mr. Whymper's making a remark to this effect to Croz, the old mountaineer replied,—

“ Yes, we were in the right not to hurry ourselves ; but I confess that in the descent I should prefer to be alone with you and a guide.”

“ My countrymen and myself,” says Mr. Whymper, “ were already discussing in what manner we should employ the evening on our return to the village.

“ Our halt on the summit lasted an hour. I agreed with Hudson how we should undertake the descent. We both resolved that Croz should be placed at the head, as he was the strongest. Hadow was second. Hudson, who in sureness of foot was equal to a guide, went third. Next followed Lord Douglas, and in his rear the elder Tauggwald. I suggested to Hudson that when we came to the difficult portion of our route, it would be well to attach a rope to the rock, as, grasping it with both hands, we should find it a great additional security. He approved of the idea ; but we did not positively decide upon carrying it into execution. All set to work fastening themselves to one another, while I completed a sketch of the summit. They waited for me. I attached myself only to the younger Tauggwald ; and we were about to commence the return journey when some one remarked that we had not left our names in a bottle.

“ They begged me to write them, and while I was so engaged, began their march. A few minutes afterwards I overtook them ; they were defiling over the most difficult part of the passage. They took the utmost precautions. Only one man moved at a time ; as soon as he had taken his stand, the next advanced in silence. The average distance between us amounted to scarcely twenty feet. We had not, however, attached to the rock a supplementary rope ; no one spoke of it, and I do not believe that any person then thought of it.

“ As I have explained, I was apart from the others, and following them ; but at the end of about a quarter of an hour Lord Douglas begged of me to fasten myself