

to the elder Tauggwald, fearing, he told me, that if he should happen to slip, the latter would not suffice to support him. I did so immediately; it was some ten minutes before the catastrophe, and it is to this precaution, taken for another's sake, that Tauggwald owes his life.

"At the moment of the accident all were motionless; at least I think so; but I cannot say with certainty, nor can the two Tauggwalds, because the two men in advance were partly hidden by a shoulder of the rock. Poor Croz had thrown away his hatchet, and to give Hadow more security, took him by the legs and put his feet one after the other in the positions they should occupy; and to judge by the movements of their shoulders, I think that Croz was turning round to descend a step or two; it is at this moment Mr. Hadow must have slipped, and then fallen upon him.

"Croz gave a cry; I saw him glide forward with the swiftness of an arrow, followed by Hadow; a second after, Hudson was torn from his place, and Lord Douglas with him; it was the affair of two seconds. But at the very moment that we heard the exclamation of Croz, both I and Tauggwald threw ourselves down, and held ourselves as firm as the frightful inclination of the rock permitted.

"The rope which held us was stretched to its uttermost, and the shock struck us like one man. We kept steady; the rope broke at about mid-distance between Lord Douglas and Tauggwald! For two or three seconds at the most we could see our unfortunate companions glide downwards on their back, with outstretched arms, then disappearing one after the other, and falling from precipice to precipice, upon the glacier, 4000 feet beneath!

"For half an hour," continues Mr. Whympfer, "terror rendered us motionless. Paralyzed with alarm, the two Tauggwalds wept like children, and trembled like a leaf. Descending a little lower, I asked to see the broken rope; alas! to my consternation, I found that it was the weakest of the three. Our unfortunate friends having tied themselves together while I was drawing, I had not noticed which kind of rope they had taken. . . . It has been pretended that it was broken by its friction on the rock. Such was not the case; and the end remaining in my possession does not justify this mode of viewing it.

"During the two hours which followed, each moment seemed to me the last of my existence. Not only were the Tauggwalds completely unnerved, and in no condition to render me any service, but they tottered at every step. I ought to add, however, that no sooner had we arrived at an easier stage of the descent, than the young Tauggwald began to laugh, smoke, and eat, as if no great misfortune had occurred. I have no more to say in reference to the descent.

"Continually, but vainly, I stopped to seek some traces of the passage of my unfortunate companions. In consequence, night surprised us while we were still at an elevation of 13,000 feet. We did not enter Zermatt until Saturday, at half-past 10 o'clock, A.M.

"Immediately on my arrival I summoned the *maire*, and requested him to send as many people as possible to the heights over the place where I was certain my friends had fallen. Several men set forth, and returned after about six hours: they