

of Switzerland and the Val d'Aosta in Piedmont. Above an unbroken line of steel-blue glaciers, 11,000 feet high, it rears an almost inaccessible obelisk of rock to a total elevation of 14,836 feet, forming one of the grandest memorials ever raised by Omnipotence to its own honour.]

In 1865 the conquest of this virgin summit was attempted by four English tourists, but their enterprise terminated in a melancholy catastrophe. It was on the 15th of July that Lord Douglas, Messrs. Hadow, Hudson, and Whymper, accompanied by three guides, undertook this perilous adventure. They succeeded in gaining the summit, and after remaining there some time they began the descent, each person being fastened to the other by a long rope. On arriving at a peculiarly dangerous portion of their journey Mr. Hadow lost his footing. He fell, and in his fall dragged down his companions. The guide who came last, with his pole, had just time to fasten the end of the rope round a projecting crag. Unhappily, the weight of the four persons in advance caused the rope to break between the third and fourth of the party. Mr. Whymper alone was saved. Our three countrymen, and one of the guides who led the way, were precipitated from rock to rock, from a height of upwards of 3000 feet.

This calamity produced a very powerful impression, not in England only, but on the Continent. It seems to us, therefore, that the reader will not be displeased if we supply a more detailed narrative of it, based on the tale told by Mr. Whymper, the survivor, in the columns of the *Times*.

On Wednesday morning, July 12th, Mr. Whymper, accompanied by Lord Francis Douglas, crossed the Col (or Pass) of St. Théodule, for the purpose of procuring guides at Zermatt. After emerging from the snows on the northern side, they skirted the base of the Great Glacier, passed the Furgge glacier, and left their tent, ropes, and other *impedimenta* in the little chapel which stands near the Lac Noir. Thence they descended to the aforementioned village, and engaged the services of Pierre Tauggwald, authorizing him to procure a second guide.

In the evening the Rev. Charles Hudson, and his friend Mr. Hadow, arrived at the hotel where our travellers were staying; they informed Mr. Whymper of their intention, on the following morning, to attempt the ascent of the Matterhorn, and Mr. Whymper and Lord Douglas invited them to make one party, after assur-