

C H A P. XV.

EXCURSIONS IN THE ALPS.

THE weather for two or three days previous to my arrival at Kefmark had been very rainy and stormy, and some people in the neighbourhood had been killed by the lightning; and when I arrived at Kefmark I had but small hopes of having weather proper for an Alpine excursion; but the next morning was the loveliest imaginable. The Alps, which I had never yet seen, from the clouds in which they had always been enveloped, when I was in other respects in a situation of seeing them, appeared in all their towering majesty, and just above me. Now my hopes of a rich harvest of Alpine plants began again to revive: I immediately went to Nehre, the seat of Mr. Horvath, the deputy lieutenant, only a couple of miles from Kefmark, to plan the expedition; and that very evening I went to Rokus, a village just at the foot of the Alps, accompanied by a good provision of ham, beef, bread, wine, brandy, &c. &c. the best escort I could take with me, a present from Madame Horvath, with full expectation of ascending in the morning.

Happiness, say the moralists, which depends on our outward circumstances, is always uncertain; and that, I say, the most fleeting

of



A View of the Carpathian Alps near Kermark.

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of all, which depends on constant weather in a mountainous country. I was hardly at Rokus before it began to rain: the next morning it did the same: I waited however patiently, though I was only in a poor peasant's cottage, till the evening, when finding the weather not to clear up, I returned to Nehre.

To my great vexation this weather continued near a week: the mornings were often fair, but towards noon the clouds began to gather round the mountains, and in the afternoon a violent storm ensued: but this weather was not peculiar to this alpine situation; in distant parts of the country the same prevailed. The most general wind was what is here called an Hungarian wind, that is the south wind, and this is the harbinger of rain: the north wind is called the Polish wind, and is considered as a harbinger of dry weather. I passed my time, whilst waiting for fair weather, at Mr. Horvath's at Nehre, and at Mrs. Berzevitz's at Lomnitz; and sometimes at Kesmark, where I had always a hearty welcome at the Rector Potnakin's, and at Mr. Paul Methlin's.

The probability of a fine morning induced Mr. Horvath one day to make a large shooting party. We set off by moon-light, in three or four carriages, and reached the ground at day-break: we were after roe, but the first marks our sportsmen observed were the marks of a bear; and as it had rained last night, from the freshness of the impressions they knew it must have been here only a few hours ago.

As

As we were near twenty strong, and had ball and flugs with us, we were not alarmed.

The morning being fine, I soon left my companions, and with a guide I set off for the Green Lake (Grüne See) which lies amongst these Alps. This is frequently visited by the curious, as it is of pretty easy access; horses come and pasture here. We ascended through ravines and vallies, and pine forests, for about two or three hours. The first hills we came to were formed of great loose blocks and fragments of granit; but at the lake, the boldest craggy rocks of granit rise and form an amphitheatre, and shut up the valley. The lake has obtained its name from the colour of its water, which has a greenish cast. I had hardly begun to botanize when a thick mist with rain came on; and though the road is by no means dangerous, or difficult to find, yet on account of these pests of Alpine travellers, it was as much as we could do to find our way back again. My companions had had but poor sport: they had only killed a fox, and seen two or three hares. In coming down the hills I found a party of peasants, some with guns, others with hatchets. They informed me they were in search of the robbers from the other side of the Alps. In joke I told them, I thought they would have but a poor chance with such a desperate gang: John Bull like, they replied, "The weakest of our party thinks himself able to encounter half a dozen of them." So then it is the same in Hungary as it is with *us*?—Yes, just the same, whether thou art a Chinese or a Briton—Hence patriotism. In the evening we returned to Nehre.

In two or three days the weather cleared up, and I returned again to Rokus, with the intention of immediately entering the mountains: but no guides were to be had. But the next morning, having arranged every thing for a stay of two or three days, I set out, accompanied by my servant, two guides, and a man and horse to carry provisions, &c. taking with me a common barometer, which I had bought at Kesmark, to measure some of the principal peaks of these Alps.

Soon after leaving the village, we entered a large wood chiefly of firs: after traversing this, we came amongst rugged rocks, and the first was a sand-stone, which I shall call for the present Alpine Sand-stone: it had no regular stratification, as in common sand-stone; but it had a tendency to divide into beds, something like schistus: it was in some parts as coarse as a pudding-stone, and in others as fine almost as a granulated quartz: the beds were almost horizontal: its height I estimated at one hundred yards: larch trees were common here.—We then came to lime-stone rocks, which extend a great way, forming the external ridge, or outward covering, as it were, of the Granitic Alps: they form the *Iron Doer*, and the *Fleisch Bank*; the latter of which is represented in the 7th plate. We then turned off to the left, and got amongst granites: the path now began to grow very dangerous for our horse; yet we arrived safe at the Green Lake, but not till the afternoon, though the peasants call the distance only three hours. I had not time to botanize *chemin faisant*, and in the animal world

world we saw nothing, except the *Papilio Apollo*, and the *Leptura 4-maculata*.

I chose our abode about a hundred yards from the lake; under an immense block of granite which had fallen down from the rocks above, and was surrounded with other blocks; these served to keep off some of the roughness of the weather. It was fortunate enough for us, that plenty of the *Pinus Pumilio*, here called *Krumholz*, grows in abundance. Whilst my attendants were occupied in cutting this for fuel, having first determined the height of our situation, which I found to be about 874 yards above Rokus, and 1684 above the level of the sea*, I made a botanical excursion.

The

* In making these calculations, I have followed Mr. De Luc's method, as far as it was applicable; but as these observations were made without a thermometer, neither the expansion and contraction of the mercury, nor the temperature of the atmosphere, could be attended to; yet, for reasons which will soon be assigned, a temperature of 10 degrees of Reaumur has been supposed.

From the observations of Baron Gordon, as mentioned in page 326, it appears that the medium height of the barometer at Leutschau is $25'' 11\frac{1}{2}'''$ Paris measure, that is $311\frac{1}{2}''' = 311,5'''$: now estimating the height of the barometer at the Mediterranean at $28'' = 336'''$, the calculation stands thus, Logarithm 336 = 2,5263393

$$311,5 = 2,4934581$$

Difference - 0,0328812. This then

multiplied by 10000 gives 328,812 as the uncorrected height of Leutschau above the Mediterranean; that is 328 toises and $\frac{8}{100}$ omitting the $\frac{12}{1000}$, this is 328,8 toises.

This



A View of the Alps near the Green-Sake.



The Alpine plants I found (but not all in this excursion) were the *Primula minima*; *Swertia perennis*; *Soldinella alpina*; *Campanula alpina*; *Gentiana punctata*; *Saxifraga aizoon*, *bryoides*, *autumnalis*, *rivularis*,

This height, which I call the uncorrected, would be the true height, that is, it would require no correction, if the medium temperature between Leutschau and the Mediterranean were $16\frac{3}{4}$ of Reaumur: but this would be a very improbable supposition; it is therefore better to consider it at *temperate heat*, which is 10 degrees of Reaumur. Now Mr. De Luc deducts, for each degree of Reaumur under $16\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{215}$ of the whole height of the uncorrected, and adds $\frac{1}{215}$ for each degree above $16\frac{3}{4}$; we must therefore here deduct the 215th part of 328,8 toises taken 6 and $\frac{3}{4}$ times: $\frac{1}{215}$ of this height is = 1,54 toises, and $6\frac{3}{4}$ times this is = 10,39 or $10\frac{39}{100}$ toises.

Uncorrected height = 328,81

$$\frac{6\frac{3}{4}}{215} = 10,39$$

True height - - - 318,42 therefore $318\frac{42}{100}$ or $318\frac{2}{5}$ toises.

In the same manner the other heights are calculated; for example, at the greatest height the mercury stood at $5''7\frac{3}{4}'''$ lower than at Leutschau, or $67\frac{3}{4}''' = 67''',75$

At Leutschau - - - - - 311''',50

At the greatest height - - - - - 67,75 lower.

Therefore at the greatest height - - - - - 243,75

Logarithm 311,50 = 2,4934581

243,75 = 2,3869446

Difference 1065,135

The uncorrected height therefore in round numbers, as the $\frac{1}{100}$ is here of no moment, is 1065 toises, from which $\frac{6\frac{3}{4}}{215}$ of it must be deducted,

$\frac{1}{215}$ is = 4,95 toises = $4\frac{95}{100}$ toises, $6\frac{3}{4}$ times this is = 33,4 toises $33\frac{4}{100}$ or $33\frac{1}{25}$

Y y

Uncorrected

rivularis, oppositifolia, cæspitosa; Silene acaulis; Geum reptans; Aconitum Napellus; Anemone alpina & narcissiflora; Ranunculus rutafolius, glacialis & alpestris; Bartsia alpina; Pedicularis verticillata; Cardamine petræa; Sonchus alpinus; Cacalia albifrons; Gnaphalium alpinum; Tussilago alpina; Cineraria cordifolia; Doronicum austriacum; Viola biflora; Veratrum album. At night I returned to my rock, where I found my attendants sitting by a most comfortable fire.

A good fire was very necessary; for though this was the fourth of August, yet within a hundred yards of my rock, a great deal of snow was still remaining, and we had no straw, nothing but the bare ground to lie on. I fell asleep amidst the relation of strange tales, with which my guides entertained my servant. "Here, Mr. Frank," said they, "at the top of yon rock which is called the Carbuncle Rock, was a precious stone of this name, of an immense value, and which shone like a star in the firmament; many ascended the rock in vain; just where it was placed the rock was quite inaccessible; at last it was shot down.—Indeed!!—There in that direction lies a treasure; but a spell is laid upon it, so that nobody can find it.—Surprising!!—And in that there is a remarkable hole, from which, if a stone is

Uncorrected height	-	-	-	-	1065,13
Deduction	-	-	-	-	33,40
					<hr/>
The true height above Leutchau	-	-	-	-	1031,73
True height of Leutchau above the Mediterranean	-				318,42
					<hr/>
True height of the greatest height above the Mediterranean					1350,15

thrown

thrown in, a vapour arises which is soon followed by a dreadful storm, which makes the very mountains tremble.—Good God!!—Upon that mountain grows a plant, which now nobody can find, which turns copper into gold.—Impossible!!—And there on yon craggy rock I was once caught in a fog, and was obliged to remain shivering with cold for many hours, till the wind dispelled it.”

My bed did not induce me to lie longer than nature required ; and as the morning promised a fair day, I was desirous to be off, to make the most of it. The whistling of the Marmot, if it did not wake me, was the first sound I heard. Taking my servant, and one guide, and some provisions, I set out, leaving the other guide to cut fuel, and watch my provisions, &c. I ascended by a small cascade into a higher valley, where still more snow was lying ; I then turned off to the left, to see if it were practicable to ascend the great Kesmark Peak. I came to the foot of some rocks, which by the aid of a good guide I think might have been climbed : but my guide happened to be an uncommonly bad one ; in a storm of hail and rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, which came on whilst I was there, he ran off, and I never spoke to him, and hardly saw him, till I returned to my rock, where I found the scoundrel warming his nose. —The further and higher I went, the more snow I found ; one steep sloping valley, which led up to some very high rocks, was quite filled up with snow. Whilst I was looking at this, and considering whether, by the aid of irons to my feet, I could not get up, I saw

something move briskly upon the frozen snow, and I called to my servant to look at it, thinking it was a Marmot: soon it stopped, and I then knew it was only a stone, which had slid down from the rocks above. A few minutes after another came down, but with greater velocity: I saw it begin to bound, and come towards us; I called to my servant to stay where he was, as he was safe, sitting under the opposite side of a great block of Granit. Not understanding me, he got up and came towards me: he now saw his danger, but not time enough to avoid it: the stone, or rather the fragment of rock, made a dreadful bound, and lit upon the very block under which he had been sitting, and from thence, broken in pieces, it flew in all directions: some of the fragments just went over his head. Left by my guide, and my botanical boxes full, and my dram bottle empty, I thought it time to come down. The greatest height I had reached this day was 559 yards above the Green Lake. In this ramble I chiefly met with the same plants I did the day before; but the *Ranunculus glacialis* and *rutæfolius* and the *Cardamine petræa* grew here more luxuriously.

The next morning I sent away my timid unfaithful guide, and gave orders for another to come up; and then leaving my servant to cut wood, and take care of the *house*, I set off with the other guide for the calcareous rocks which are above the *Fleisch-Bank*, and are a continuation of those I found in my road to the Green Lake, and are represented in the 7th plate. The fine
 sloping



A View of the Fleisch Bank from the Green Lake.

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sloping bank, covered with verdure, which lies under these rocks, is called the Fleisch-Bank, from the quantity of oxen that are pastured upon it during three or four of the summer months. Here I found several rare plants, as the *Cnicus pygmæus*, *Hypochaeris belvetica*, *Leontodon aureum*, *Hieracium alpinum*, *Andryala lanata*; and at the top the *Hedysarum obscurum*, *Phaca frigida*, *Astragalus alpinus* & *vesicarius*; and in a shady place, close under the rocks, the *Cortusa Matthioli*, and *Centaurea montana*; and on the rock itself, some beautiful specimens of Wulfen's *Lichen tartareus*.

I had now a full view of the lime-stone rocks: but I could neither see any mark of stratification, nor any petrifications; they were formed of one thick bed of compact light-grey lime-stone; and according to my barometrical measurements, about twenty-six yards thick. In one place it was pretty regularly divided into four or five beds; but these divisions, or signs of stratification, only extended a few yards: between these beds were four or five thin beds of black flint, running parallel to each other; but these likewise were only of a few yards extent, and were sometimes intercepted in their course by the lime-stone.—Though there was very little danger or difficulty in climbing to the top of these rocks, yet my guide would not venture; but as he told me at first that he was no Chamois-hunter, I could not find fault with him. It will appear something uncommon, and perhaps improbable, that a *cockney* should be a better climber of Alps than those born just at their foot: but so it happened; I was obliged

to leave my guide here at the bottom of the rocks ; and telling him that by signs with my hat I would indicate to him which way he should go to meet me, I climbed up by myself. I got well paid for my trouble. On the top, besides enjoying a beautiful view of Galicia, I found some more Alpine plants, the *Saxifraga cæsia* in great abundance ; *Dianthus alpinus*, *Cerberia sedoides*, *Dryas octopetala*, *Senecio abrotanifolius*, and a most luxuriant specimen of the *Lichen elegans* of Mr. Link *, the *miniatus* of Hoffman. Though towards the Green Lake, that is towards the west, the cliffs form a perpendicular wall ; yet on the other side there is from the very top a most pleasing sloping bank covered with verdure.

Having staid as long as my time would permit, I made my signs to my guide, and then descended on the same side I came up. In a ravine I found some soft argillaceous schistus ; this seemed to me to form the Fleisch-Bank ; but it was not slate, the *Ardesia tegularis*, but rather something of the nature of *Shale*, being soft and friable. Now was this deposited against the lime-stone rocks,—or were these superimposed to the schistus ?—This is of importance in *Geognosy*, and presently we shall be able to decide the question.—I could never see any thing of my guide till I was quite at the foot of the bank, and then I espied him just where I had left him. I conjectured at first, when I did not see him, that he had done like my other guide, run

* Annal. der Natur-Gesch.

away; but now I had reason to believe he had mistaken my signals. I waited in hopes he might espy me, but to no purpose, and at last I went home. It soon grew dark, and I got amongst the Krumholz; and here I thought I must have passed the night. No one who has not made a trial, can form an idea of the difficulty of making one's way through this, and the consequent tardy progress. The branches of this tree extend many yards in all directions just along the ground: they are sometimes supported by the unevenness of the soil, sometimes by blocks of stone, and sometimes by branches of the same; so that one must often get down between them, at other times walk upon them. At last, however, overwhelmed with fatigue, I reached my roek; which in this situation I valued no less than an inn, and which I now began to consider as my home; but my guide never made his appearance till next morning. He had fortunately his hatchet with him, and without this you never see a man here; so much so, that in another part of these mountains, Mr. Haquet says, they dance with them in their hands, and in the midst of the dance throw them up in the air, and catch them again with great dexterity. With this he had cut himself some of the Krumholz; and with the tinder made from a fungus, which they likewise always carry with them to light their pipes, he had kindled a fire, and passed the night comfortably; and the only thing he missed was——my brandy.

The next day I spent in reposing myself, in drying the plants I had collected, and in walking about my *own domains*. At the bottom

of:

of the great rock, *b*, which is the Kefmark Peak, it is said there is a vein of Lapis Lazuli: I went there, but found the place quite covered with snow.—In the evening, Gros Hans (Great John) the best guide and Chamois-hunter in the country came to me, and the next morning we set out upon scaling one of the most difficult peaks, the White Lake (*Weisse See*) Peak. I climbed up with my barometer, though in many places it was hardly accessible but to *chamois*. The hunters of these animals know the paths they take in these Alps, and set traps for them: one of these we found; it was like a large fox-steel-trap: but they only set them in the close of the year, when the snow prevents any one from visiting these mountains except themselves, otherwise they might find a man in them instead of a *chamois*, as sometimes Treasure-hunters and Simplers come here. Lakes, though common enough in every alpine country, are what appear most remarkable to guides. I was first conducted to the Red Lake; higher up to the New Lake: this was quite frozen up and covered with snow: we crossed this, and then climbed the high and very narrow ridge of rocks which separates the valley of the Red Sea from that of the Flock Sea: we then reached the peak. The day was delightful: I had a fine view from hence of the surrounding alps: these are so much higher than the mountains to the east and west, which form part of the Carpathian chain, that they seem to be only one huge cluster of alps. I had a fine view likewise of Galicia: it is commonly reported, and given as an indication of their great height, that from these alps, Cracow may be seen in the north, and Erlau in

the south. I imagine they ought to have said, that from these two distant cities these mountains may be seen; and this would be very probable. From Lyons I have seen Mont-Blanc; but no one ever saw Lyons from Mont-Blanc. Though my barometer told me I was now 628 yards above the Green Lake, yet the Kesmark Peak still rose much above me: I could plainly see the highest part I had reached the first day, and this appeared on a level with the middle of the Kesmark Peak; if so, the height of this Peak, which is on this side a perpendicular rock, will be 1152 yards above the Green Lake, and 2836 above the level of the sea. At the very top of this White Lake Peak, I found the *Papilio Urticæ*, and several of the *Stratiomys nigricans* whisking about with great velocity. We descended by the *Schactners Grotte*. This is a shoulder of the peak, and thus far all is granit; but to the east of this the granit is covered by sand-stone of different degrees of fineness, from granulated quartz to almost pudding-stone. Above this, further to the east, the sand-stone is covered by the primitive limestone; the *Durlfberg* is a continuation of the same, and this is likewise lime-stone. Neither in the sand-stone nor lime-stone, was there any appearance of stratification or petrifications. This ridge, which runs parallel with the *Fleisch-Bank*, has its perpendicular cliffs, like this, facing the Green Lake. Upon the granit rocks I found little, except some luxuriant specimens of the *Lichen tauricus* & *nivalis*, and some of the Alpine *Usneæ*. I think it was here where I found that rare plant, the *Gentiana frigida*, figured in the 13th plate. On the calcareous rocks I collected the *Androsace villosa* & *pauciflora*, with the *Draba aizoides* & *hirta*.

From the White Lake Peak I had seen some very bold cliffs belonging to the chain of calcareous rocks which overhang the Fleisch-Bank, but much higher than those I visited the second day. My next day's excursion was to these. I went nearly the same road as I did the second day, but more to the left. The Fleisch-Bank here afforded me some rare alpine plants: in one spot grew together the *Poa disticha*, the *Ranunculus Thora*, but out of blossom, the *Doronicum bellidiastrum*, and the *Erigeron uniflorum*; and higher up the *Aster alpinus*, and *Chrysanthemum alpinum*, and other plants which I had already found in these Alps.

At some distance I espied a deep ravine. These small scratches in the skin of our globe, often shew us a little of its texture; they are therefore eagerly sought for by Geognosts: I made up to it, and it solved the doubts which had arisen in my mind the second day on my finding the schistus. I entered it about one-third from the bottom, and, ascending, the first thing I observed was an immense thick bed or stratum of soft shattery argillaceous schistus; then a thick stratum or two of the primitive sand-stone, and then more schistus; and when I reached the great cliffs, which I expected to find of lime-stone, I found again my primitive sand-stone, and forming a bed that I cannot estimate at less than a hundred yards in thickness; and then above this came the great lime-stone rocks: these beds of sand-stone and lime-stone were no ways stratified; they were beds or strata themselves. From hence it is most probable that the schistus,

which

which I found the second day, and which I conjectured to form the flesh bank, really lay under the primitive limestone and supported it.

I ascended to the highest part of the calcareous rocks with my barometer; but by some misfortune the observations I made here were lost: yet I recollect they made these rocks about the height of the White Lake Peak, that is, about two thousand three hundred yards above the level of the sea; and as the *Weiden-Graben* or brook, which runs at the foot of the *Fleisch-Bank*, is rather lower than the Green Lake, so there is an immense bed near 700 yards thick of stratified rock.

Before I set out in the morning, I had given orders to my servant to take my baggage to the Kesmark *Kofchar*, where I intended to pass the night; and I had bid adieu to *my* rock, adieu for ever:—an adieu for ever, to a prison, would sadden the pleasures of regained liberty, and cast a gloom over the soul reprieved from death. Objects of affection would now crowd upon the mind; and the chains would be thanked that they had not been so heavy, and the floor that it had not been so hard. In gratitude I had tried to engrave my name upon *my* rock, but it was of granit; or I would moreover, as the only tribute my grateful heart could pay, have recounted in its praise the chilling rains it had protected me from, and the bleak winds it had warded off, and I would have declared it to be the kindest amongst rocks. The stiff necks, and sore hips and shoulders,

I now forgot, and I reluctantly left my alpine cave. How fortunate it would be for us, whilst in this jangling jarring world, could we but view the failings of those friends amongst whom we live, with the same charitable eye we do our parting or absent ones! Then peace would be oftener within our dwellings.

I descended the mountain again, and directed my steps towards the *Kofchar*. In my road there, at the foot of the *Fleisch-Bank*, my guide shewed me the remains of an ox, which had been grazing in some of the steeper parts, and had fallen down and was killed: and not far from thence were the remains of another which had been killed by a bear about a fortnight ago: this was, I think, the third which had been destroyed this summer by these animals. Yet the herdsmen are never attacked, though they stay out with their herds the whole summer through: the night they pass, as my guide did, amongst the *krumholz*, or by the side of some rock, where they make a fire; this is always agreeable in such a high situation, and sometimes indispensably necessary. The chronicles of these alps record, that even in the midst of summer, such severe weather sometimes happens, as proves fatal both to the cattle and their keepers. Some years ago, about this season of the year, one or two people were frozen to death here; and on the fourth and fifth of August of the year 1724, eight-and-fifty horses were frozen. My guide pointed out to me two or three places, where the people of the neighbouring towns and villages had been mining; they are all convinced that these alps are very rich in mines and precious stones.

In

In the evening I reached the *Kofchar*, and there I found my retinue. This is a small wooden hut in the midst of a wood, built in the Swedish manner; that is, with barks whose ends are let into one another, something in the manner of, what carpenters call, dove-tail work: it was only about six yards long, and three broad, and divided into two apartments, but by no means weather tight. In the first apartment the head shepherd, who is only a poor common peasant, lives, and makes the cheese; the other is the magazine where it is kept till it is sent to Kesmark, which is every week. The business of the dairy is very simple; the sheep are driven home thrice a-day to be milked, and each milking is immediately made into cheese, for no butter is made. The runnet is poured upon the milk whilst it is warm, which is presently after beaten together, and soon after this the head shepherd gropes together with both his hands all the curds. This appeared to be a difficult business, and lasted near half an hour; the curds then form one great mass, and are taken out together and put into a cloth, and hung up, but no pressure is used. The whey which remains is boiled, and acquires some consistence, and this forms the food of the shepherds, and their only food for the whole season; they have not even bread. After the shepherd and his men had eaten their supper, the men, of whom there were four or five, left the hut, and went and slept under sheds round the fold. We likewise laid ourselves upon the floor and slept. In the night the head shepherd got up two or three times and followed to his men, to see whether they were upon the watch; who
always

always answered, to shew that they were upon their duty. Great vigilance is requisite against the wolves, and with all these precautions these animals had carried off three sheep this summer. The day had been rather showery, and at night we had a storm of thunder and lightning, accompanied by a heavy rain. In the morning I took one of the horses feeding here, and transported my baggage to Rokus; and there I got another to Kesmark, where I passed a couple of days to dry my plants, and to repose myself; and then on Wednesday the 14th of August I set out again to ascend the Lomnitz Peak, the highest of the whole Carpathian chain.

I left Kesmark about noon, and transported the provisions, &c. to Alt Waldorf, where I engaged two chamois-hunters and a fresh horse. Though this village is quite at the foot of the alps, yet I think we were two or three hours on the march before we entered them, and it was nearly dark before we got to the *Glatstein* (smooth-stone). The path now became too rough and steep for the horse, we therefore took off the baggage and sent the horse home; and we resolved to pass the night here *à la belle étoile*. We had not even a good rock under which we could creep. The barometer gave our present height at 583 yards above the last village. The first thing the guides did was to fell a fir tree; for we had not yet ascended as high as the region of the *Krumholz*, and there was soon a fire big enough to roast an ox. As these were new guides, I had to hear nearly the same strange stories of inaccessible gold-mines, concealed treasures, &c. &c. as from

from my last: but comparing their accounts with those of Mr. Saussure, they seem to be better rewarded for the dangers they expose themselves to in pursuit of the *chamois* than the hunters of the Switzer Alps. One day's successful sport is more advantageous to them than a fortnight's or three week's labour; this is owing to there being some opulent nobility in the neighbourhood of these alps. In the morning my attendants took my baggage on their shoulders, and proceeded to the end of the *Klein-Koblach*, where there is an immense block of granit, well known to the *chamois* and gold hunters, and here we deposited it; for this was now to be our sheltering-place. But a dreadful accident here befell us, though no hare had crossed the road: my servant, who had taken charge of two or three large wooden flasks of liquor, just as he was going to take them off his shoulders, let one slip; it fell on a rock—burst—and its precious contents, which were to have supported us under our fatigues, and to have revived our worn-out spirits, were gone—for ever. A dejected look was visible in the countenances of every one of us. The perpetrator of the horrid deed had served against the Turks, and exclaimed, though a catholic, it *was to be so, it was decreed it should be so*. Gloomy fatality, friend of sloth and vice, and enemy to every active virtue, afforded me no comfort, but still appeared to me with its usual odious mien.

After reposing myself a little, and observing the height of my barometer, which gave our present elevation at 1789 yards above the level

level of the sea, I made a tour with one of my guides to the Five Lakes. These lie in a valley we came to after we had ascended the rocks which shut up the one I had chosen for my residence: they were thawed, though a good deal of snow lay still unmelted. I found nothing new in botany; I saw once or twice the *Certhia muraria*, and heard the Marmot: all is granit here. In the evening I returned to my rock, where I found a comfortable *Krumbolz* fire to sit by. I had not long been here, and was engaged in looking over, by the light of my fire, the few things I had collected, when I heard myself addressed in German, with HIGH, WELL AND NOBLY BORN! ——— In such a solitary cell, and so remote from the world, and at night, to receive a visit, and to be addressed with such titles!!! ——— Though no fairy tale was floating in my brain, yet I could not conceive the blessed sound to come but from some aërial messenger sent to hail me KING OF PERSIA. On looking up, I saw not one but three ——— not ambassadors from heaven, but three poor devils with haggard looks and tattered clothes. ——— Ah! how often do the outward senses, careful guardians over the wanderings of the mind, correct its errors and repress its wanton freaks! These were neither botanists nor chamois-hunters, but gold-hunters, and by trade shoe or *chism* makers, from Kesmark, and all more or less tinctured with Alchymy, who were begging for permission to take shelter under my rock, and to warm themselves by my fire. The intrepidity and constancy of these men are surprising; they are even bolder than the chamois-hunters. ——— These poor fellows, like those gloomy moral-

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ists who conceive virtue to exist in suffering, and in the performance of some galling task which nature unwillingly performs, and are regardless of the little offices of kindness dictated by our own hearts, have had the misfortune to believe that mines and treasures are only found in the most inaccessible parts of the rocks: the higher these are, the more they are covered with snow, and exposed to storms, and, what is the most dangerous of all, to mists and fogs, the more eager they are to examine them: they honestly confessed to me, that they had visited these Alps, and with the same views, for the last twelve years, and had met with nothing, or next to nothing, and that they were about fifty pounds out of pocket; but, like Alchemists, they hoped at last to succeed. False reasoning, on final causes, has in some degree led to this: these mighty works of God, they say, have not been created for nothing; and then, ignorant of their importance in the œconomy of Nature, attribute to them an office for which they were never designed, that of producing gold, silver, and precious stones.

The wind at night was very violent, and roared tremendously amidst this world of rocks: the fleecy clouds fled rapidly across the moon, the friend of the benighted traveller, and cheerer of this dreary solitude: yet, though thus secluded from the world, we were not sad, but free from care and sorrow; we thought and talked only of the sufferings of others. And chiefly of the chamois-hunter, who, in the eagerness of pursuit, had perhaps been led amongst the craggy

precipices of the impending rocks, and now benighted, starved with hunger and cold, and worn out with fatigue, must wait there, even destitute of his usual clothing, which he had thrown aside to facilitate his course, if life should still hold out this dreadful trial, till a brighter luminary should arise to guide his steps across the hideous chasms, which now surround him with all their horrors, when, perhaps, with the rising sun, fogs and mists would come on, and cover him in still greater darkness: and of the poor deluded gold-seeker, who, in search of unexisting treasures, might now be sinking in a half-thawed lake, or, fallen into some great cavern, must now bid an eternal farewell to his visionary projects. Nor did the suffering botanist, who might be lost, and now wandering amidst this world of ruins; or who in reaching at the supposed nondescript, and falling from these towering battlements of heaven, might now be groaning out his last breath amidst these unpitying rocks, without a single friend to condole with him in his distress, not share our commiseration. And thus we made our situation enviable by comparing it with that of others harder than our own: nor was my lot so hard; I led the life of the hunting state; my toils over, I sat with my companions in fatigue by the side of a cheerful fire, and caroused over a pot of hot grog. One of my guides having shot a Marmot, it was roasted, and it added to our feast.——How sweet are the smallest comforts of life when we lead an active hardy life!

In the morning I had purposed to scale the Lomnitzer Peak, but

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the violence of the wind would not allow such a dangerous expedition to be attempted. I could therefore spare one of my guides: I sent off the most active in the morning to go down for another supply of brandy for my attendants, and with a letter to Mrs. Bersevitzy for some wine. Brandy, corn brandy, is to be bought every where; but good wine, in small quantities, is hardly to be bought any where: the good lady not only sent me a provision of good wine, but likewise of ham, tongue, and cold veal; and I contented myself with botanizing on the ridge of rocks which separates the two great vallies, the great and the little Kahl-bach; but I had very little success. This ridge of rocks forms precipices on both its sides, as well towards the great as the little Kahl-bach: it is composed of nearly vertical leaves, which lean towards the head or end of the valley, that is to the N. W.; and the rocks on the other side of the valley have the leaves likewise in the same direction. The gold-hunters had courage enough to set out in the morning in quest of treasure; but they soon found the weather too boisterous, and came back, and I found them on my return sitting at my fire.

The next morning the weather, though by no means very fine, was much better; and as I could afford to lose no more time, I determined to attempt to ascend the Lomnitzer Peak, with which, none in the whole Carpathian chain, except the Krivan, can in regard to height enter into competition. I took my barometer with me and both my guides, and left to my servant the care of my household concerns.

concerns. We ascended the rocks on the right of our valley, by scrambling up a ravine in some places filled with loose stones; we were, from the difficulties we met with, obliged at times to help one another, and the barometer incommoded me greatly. In less than two hours we reached the top of the rocks which formed the right side of our valley; but when there we seemed no nearer. Here we were on a slope, which seemed to reach almost to the top: it was covered with great loose blocks of granite. The clouds now began to collect about the foot of the mountain, and some fleeces ascended towards us: this made us halt, and consider whether it was prudent to go further: I insisted on ascending to the top of the slope, as we could, I thought, have found our way down again, though enveloped in mists and clouds. We accordingly continued our journey: when arrived there we halted again; for my guides were very unwilling to go further, for fear of the clouds rising up to us. After we had baited, and a heart-cheering dram had passed round, I insisted on ascending to the top; but it seemed to fly from us, or rather to grow up before us. When we had reached the peak, this was so steep, that, to get up, we were obliged sometimes to wind round it, and sometimes to descend, and then climb up the most craggy precipices, and sometimes walk upon the most dangerous shelves of the rock: but at last we reached the summit, and with my barometer in good order. I believe, I may safely say, this was the first that ever was upon it. I found it 1091 yards above our rock, from whence we set out in the morning; 2024 yards above the great valley from whence these Alps arise; and 2880 yards above the level of the sea.

Ascertaining the height of this mountain, was all I reaped from this laborious and dangerous expedition; for the clouds, which kept increasing, entirely deprived us of the fine and extensive view we must otherwise have had from this elevated situation. This peak was composed of grey granit, like the rocks at bottom, but with a small admixture of a greenish black terreous substance; except a few Lichens, it afforded me very little. The finest specimens of the *Senecio incanus*, and *Arnica Doronicum*, I found here, but not at the top; and the *Krumholz* ceased to grow four or five hundred yards (perpendicular height) below the summit: I met with no snow in all this day's journey. The clouds rising higher and higher, made my guides more and more clamorous to descend; and indeed they had reason, for at best it was a perilous undertaking, and without good guides impracticable.—The chamois-hunters even, when caught in a mist amongst these precipices, are often obliged to wait hours together until the weather clears up, or a favourable blast dispels for a while the hovering mists. We descended nearly by the same way we had ascended, and in our way we heard the gold-hunters, in some deep chasm, hammering at the rocks. My guides hollaed to them, and they answered; but we could not see one another on account of the mist: we reached our rock in safety in good time. Soon after the gold-hunters returned, with hungry stomachs and empty bags.

I made many enquiries of these guides, as well as of my last,

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to know whether there were any Alpine Quadrupeds except the Marmot and the Chamois in these Alps, and they said there were none. The latter animal is here commonly called *Stein Bock*; though *Gems* is the proper denomination in German, which is the common language of these parts: and as *Stein Bock* is the German appellation for the *Capra Ibex*, Mountain-Goat, some have supposed that this animal was really an inhabitant of these Alps. This is the opinion of Mr. Windisch, the Hungarian geographer; and Mr. Zimmerman, in his very ingenious *Tabula Zoologica*, has fallen into the same error; nor is the *Antilope Saiga* ever found in this part of the Carpathian chain, as far as I could learn.

On the *Krumbolz*, which grew near our rock, I found a small caterpillar striped with black and green; it was in great abundance, and had in some places devoured almost all the leaves of these trees. Are not these the worms pretended to be generated from snow, mentioned by some Hungarian authors? As Bell, for instance, in his *Prodromus Hungariae*, who, speaking of these very Alps, says, "Hanc perpetuis obstitam nivibus videas, quas ex situ, vermium quoddam genus concipere, afferunt, qui viderunt." I brought some away with me, with a view to examine them accurately; but, alas! as it often happens in such tours, they were lost.—The next morning I returned to Kefmark: in descending I saw a great many of the *Turdus torquatus*, Ring Ouzel, amongst the *Krumbolz*.

Table of Barometrical Measurements of the Highest Alps in the County of Lips belonging to the great Chain of the Carpathian Mountains.



