

but as far as the eye could reach, sharp rock ridges peering through the mantle of snow contrasted with the forest-clad valley of the Illicilliwaet, so prominent in the other direction. Near at hand rose the northern face of Grizzly, from this point a perfect cone of gray ice unspotted with rock. The moment of disappointment came when the aneroid barometer was consulted. In his sketch map¹ of this region Herr Sulzer estimates our peak to be ten metres higher than Sir Donald. We hoped for this amount of evidence that in point of altitude we had surpassed the Swiss party's brilliant ascents in the Selkirks. Despite a vigorous shaking our instrument stood fast at 10,300 feet.² We were beneath rather than above the summit of the American Matterhorn. The hour, five o'clock, forbade a long stay on the summit, and the absence of material prevented the erection of a cairn to celebrate our ascent.

The first half of the descent proved as easy as the last half of the ascent had been difficult. The condition of the snow slope on the southeast had changed with the withdrawal of the sun's rays. Our leader now considered it a safe highway. A royal one it was. Its surface yielded sufficiently to enable one to press a firm foothold, and its inclination at an angle of forty degrees made all other exertion unnecessary. To stand erect on a slope like this, and thus secure the firmer footing, is a hard lesson for a novice to learn. The writer vividly remembers the frequent exhortation from his friend in the rear, "Don't lean in, jam your heel down."³ But confidence in the ice-axe, in the rope, and most of all in one's comrades, is of rapid growth. By the time we reached the bergschrund, the tyro was quite ready to assent to the proposal to cross it in the "pleasant way" described by Professor Tyndall in his chapter on the "Accident on the Piz Morteratsch." Fortunately, his ignorance, though great, was surpassed by the wisdom of his

¹ Jahrbuch des Schweizer Alpen Club, 1890-1891, page 264.

² The aneroid, however, was slightly depressed that day, recording the elevation of the Glacier House a few feet lower than at other times. It may be added that the instrument responded well to that crucial test of an aneroid, ability to return promptly to the proper point on descending.

³ The friend behind wishes to bear witness here that he considered Little, under the circumstances, a remarkably upright man. Not until we glissaded was it apparent what a remarkable backslider he could become. C. S. T.