

THE ALPS AND THEIR AVALANCHES.

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THE Alps, so named from the fact that their tops are covered with eternal snows—the word “alp” meaning white—comprise various clusters, or knots, of mountains from which diverge numerous mountain-ranges running many miles east or west, north or south, from the central knots.

Each of these long ranges has its special name; as the Bernese Alps, the Pennine Alps, the Maritime Alps, the Carnic Alps. Each of the principal peaks is likewise distinguished by a name; among the famous ones are Mont Blanc, Monte Rosa, and

Mont Cervin; these are the three highest peaks in Europe, Mont. Blanc, the loftiest of all, being more than fifteen thousand feet above the level of the sea. Rising from an immense lake of ice, are the no less celebrated Jungfrau, Schreckhorn, and Wetterhorn. There are beside a host of other peaks well known to both student and tourist.

An Alpine mountain has four natural divisions: the lower region, the wooded region, the alp, or pasture region, and the rocky region. Let us climb one.