

cult. The only thoroughfare was over a smooth ledge inclining at an angle of sixty degrees and nearly as many feet above the snow. There was no foothold save a transverse crack along its upper side, just beyond one's reach without the help of an ice-axe or a friendly hand. While drawing himself up to this, one of our number was seized with a severe cramp which we for a moment feared might prove to be a strain. It is needless to add that we walked this crack with deliberation. Twice we crawled through or under the great fragments of rock which the giant hands of heat and cold had tumbled one upon another, rather than run the risk of surmounting or flanking them. Three hours of such clambering interrupted by a second lunch and a long rest brought us to the summit.

The sense of fatigue disappeared with the sight that greeted us. We had crossed the rock-rib that joins Rogers Peak to Swiss Peak and justifies Herr Sulzer's use of Mount Rogers as an inclusive term, and were now standing on the snow that covers the crest of the mountain like a thick fold of flesh. Mr. Abbot called me to its northern edge, saying, "Look down and see what I have never seen before in Europe or America." The sight was a wall of snow at least fifteen hundred feet in height that seemed perpendicular<sup>1</sup> as we cautiously peered over. From its base a glacier swept away over an ice fall, marked by huge irregular séracs into the valley beyond.<sup>2</sup> To us, toiling for hours over blackened rocks, this sudden transformation of the peak into pure untrodden snow rising from a foundation of glistening ice was as startling as it was beautiful.

The haze shut off the distant view to the north and west,

<sup>1</sup> Subsequent measurements with the clinometer, taken at points several rods apart, showed that the snow wall had a slope of fifty-four degrees. Parallel with a lower rock ridge, and perhaps forty feet from the edge of the wall, ran a fissure through the undulating snow and ice of the summit. This circumstance led us to surmise that under the favoring circumstances of a long warm summer, this crack, now insignificant as to width, might develop into a bergschrund of no slight proportions.

<sup>2</sup> It will be found, I think, that we were overlooking the valley of Mountain Creek. At any rate, the following day as we crossed that stream, the fireman of the locomotive remarked, "Prospectors have been up that valley and have come out at Ross Peak," apparently showing that there is an easy pass across the range probably to the north and west of Mt. Cheops. An alpine problem presenting some difficulties would be the crossing of the range between Rogers Peak and Grizzly. C. S. T.