



THE JUNGFRAU, THE FAMOUS ALPINE PEAK.

CROSSING THE ALPS BY BALLOON.

One of the most daring ascents ever made is reported from Switzerland. Captain Spelterini, a famous aeronaut, has succeeded in crossing the Alps in his balloon. He ascended to the Eiger Glacier station on the railroad up the Jungfrau, where a departure platform had been erected. To this his balloon was attached. It contained sixteen hundred cubic metres of gas, and was carefully ballasted to allow for the height from which the start was made. As the balloon rose, it was watched with intense interest by the spectators. While still in the lower latitudes, the captain could be seen taking photographs of the lesser peaks. Gradually the balloon rose until it was lost to view. Later in the day, when the captain descended safely at Adelboden, he reported that he had enjoyed splendid weather, and had taken several fine photographs. The view of the summits of the Alps was marvelous. The maximum height attained was 20,000 feet. The Jungfrau itself is 13,671 feet high. He passed over the summit, and drifted in the direction of Valais. There the wind changed, and he was carried back toward the Berne Canton, where a landing being considered advisable, the balloon was brought to

the ground after its adventurous trip. The scene from the balloon was exceedingly beautiful, the mountain tops viewed from that novel position being most impressive.

The Jungfrau (the maiden) is one of the most famous of the Alpine peaks. It is celebrated in story and romance and adventure. It received its name from the unsullied purity and dazzling brightness of the snow, with which it is covered. There was a tradition that no mountaineer had ever climbed to its summit, but in 1811 two Swiss gentlemen succeeded in reaching it, and since then Agassiz, Professor Forbes, and others, made the ascent. The railroad up the mountain was commenced in 1898. It is intended to carry it to the summit, where an observatory will be erected. The work is one of extreme difficulty, the gradients in some instances being twenty-five per cent. The grandeur of the scene witnessed by the aeronauts must have been wonderful beyond description. Never before have those those snow-clad peaks been viewed from any one on their level. To any one gazing at their vast bulk and meditating on their majestic proportions, how overwhelming must be the prophet's idea of the power of the Almighty.