

have already observed, places its altitude at 21,224 feet. If the latter estimate be correct, M. Wiener has, we believe, not only made the highest ascent which has been made in the Andes, but has attained a greater altitude than has hitherto been reached on the earth out of Asia, and in Asia has only been beaten by Mr. Johnson, who some years ago got to a height of 22,300 feet in Cashmere. As the recorded ascents to the height of 21,000 feet are extremely few, we shall be glad to hear further particulars respecting M. Wiener's exploit, and more especially whether he experienced much exhaustion through the rarefaction of the air. Practised mountaineers who have climbed to a height of 17,000 to 18,000 feet have been of opinion that even at such altitudes there is a very important and perceptible diminution of the bodily powers, and think it probable that the height of 25,000 or 26,000 feet will be found to be about the limit which will ever be reached on foot. As a set-off to this opinion we may mention the facts that hunters in the Himalayas frequently pursue their game at heights exceeding 20,000 feet without experiencing any notable inconvenience from the low barometric pressure, and that natives living on the base of Demavend, near Teheran, often ascend to its summit to gather sulphur from its crater without any great difficulty. The height of this mountain, there is reason to believe, also exceeds 20,000 feet, although it has never been accurately determined.* If, therefore, severe work can be done with impunity at such elevations, it seems not unreasonable to suppose that much greater heights might be attained by men who had previously accustomed themselves to life at high altitudes. Aeronauts, anyhow, have proved that life can exist at 30,000 feet above the level of the sea, and that at 25,000 feet and upwards one may positively be comfortable if sufficiently warmly clad. That such is the case is sufficiently remarkable, for "travellers in the air" have to sustain incomparably more rapid variations of pressure and temperature than mountain-climbers. Mr. Glaisher, on his memorable ascent on September 5, 1862, left the earth at 1 p.m., and in less than an hour shot up to a height of 30,000 feet. At starting, the temperature of the air was 59 deg., and at its greatest altitude it was 61 deg. lower. Mountaineers experience no such extreme variations as these. They rarely ascend more rapidly than 1,000 feet per hour, never so much as 15,000 feet in a day, and become to some extent acclimatized as they progress upwards. On the whole we are inclined to think that man will not rest until he has at least attempted to reach the loftiest summits on the earth, though we will venture to assert that it will be long before anyone crushes down the snow on the summit of Mount Everest.

CIMA DI NAFDISIO (FRESHFIELD), or CIMA DI VALLON (AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT MAP).—On September 11, 1877, Messrs. R. Gaskell and M. Holzmunn, with A. Lacedelli, of Cortina, as guide, made the first

* *Demavend*.—Capt. Navier, under date Teheran, November 15, 1877, writes to Mr. Moore as follows:—"I have been up Demavend again with a new barometer I brought out, and have reduced the height to 18,500 (or, exactly 18,493) feet." See *Alpine Journal*, No. 57, p. 261.

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