The Late Swiss Floods-Ascents of the Matterhorn.

October 19, 1868 .- Having myself witnessed some of the most disastrons effects of the great storm, and the accompanying inundations, who is took place in the middle of last August in fwitzerland, and having been flooded up by the deluge for some days at Saas, I think the following notes of scenes and inci-dents which came under my observation may prove interesting to your readers, in sequence to the recent communication of Professor Airy. I was higher up than the Astronomer Royal, and was in some peril, not to speak of personal privations. Could I but have got down to Visp, I should have thought myself out of all danger and free from all perplexity. But, unluckily, I was at Saas, shut up for some days in an old house, which became a stone ark, with sundry kinds of queer animals, but, unhappily, no dove. For several days a warm, and sometimes hot, gouth wind had been blowing up from the Italian side of Monte Rosa, and covering the mountains with black clouds. It was, therefore, useless to think of attempting to cross over into Italy by the Monte Moro pass in such cloudy and dismal weather. The little rough hotel at the Mattmarh See, situated about three hours' walk higher up the valley, is the last stopping place before crossing the Moro, and there I had slept one night, rising at four o'clock; but finding thick darkness still prevalent, I at once returned to Saas, preferring to await brighter weather there. Retiring early to my bed-room, which faced the south, I sought sleep, without the remotest sus-picion of what was brewing in the skies, although the oppressive heat and lowering mists might have forewarned me. It was about 3 o'clock in the morning when

I was awoke by a tremendous storm of rain and thunder and lightning. Such lightning, thunder, and rain only come down on Alpine heights and in valleys. No words can fully describe this storm; but its results may be described to some extent. My bed-room windows were all fronting the fury of the tempest, and one of the heavy exterior wooden shutters were speedily loosened. Smashed glass and dislocated windows at once allowed the rain to pour in like a sheet of water. In a few minutes the floor was flooded, the ceiling above poured down little streams, and before long my bed was a pool of water. The lightming seemed to play around me in vivid forks, the thunder nearry deafened me, and the farious wind raged round my poor chamber like an unchained maniac. I lay in bed as patiently as I could till the day broke, and then I dressed and descended, half wet, wholly chilled, and not a little discomfited. No sooner had I reached the salle à manger

than I saw, at a glance, that a deluge of water had fallen in the few hours of darkness during which the storm raged The previously narrow, rapidly-rushing mountain stream was now a terrible, broad, and feaming river-a river in high and furious flood. Stepping out on to the little balcony, it was manifest that the unhappily located house was now simply an island. Right and left, high up and low down, all was flooded. Fields, divisions, walls, paths, were all mearly, and would soon be quite, obliterated. Down dashed the mad waters in irresistible force; and looking at the lowest windows of the house, I saw the flood had nearly risen to their sills. It was a question merely of time -of a few hours probably-whether the lower story would not be entirely under water. In about two hours such was the actual state of things. The passage, the drinking-room, the cellars, the kitchen, were all innudated. Up Catherine with her kitchen ware, up came the white-capped cook, up came one

dull old landlord, and up came Father Imseng in deep sorrow and damp vestnneasiness was depicted on every countenance, and increasingly as the morning passed on, for the flood continually augmented. The waters rose higher and higher, and by midday it was donotful whether even the salle à manger itself would escape the all-threatening waters. I looked out at the corner of the house most exposed to the full descending impact of the waters, and discovered that the stone at the angle was partly broken, and that other stones were very likely to be loosened in time.

Two huge rough wooden benches stool before the inn-door. Long ago had their seats been under water, and would the benches themselves stand against the flowing enemy? We could see the upper rails only; but before long these were submerged. Crash! crash! and down went one great bench. Soon after, crash! crash! and away went the other great bench. Huge stones were also dislodged, and went down with, and in part · arrested, the rapid descent of the shattered benches. Seeing this, a young man, son of the dull old laudlord, devised and skilfully accomplished the reseas of one of the two benches. Binding a strong rope round his middle, he plunged into the river; his father and two other men holding the rope on the tep of a wall. Father Imseng looked on in doubt and in dirt; all the people of the house appeared and encouraged the young man. Strong as he was, the waters once hurried him down, and he had to be hauled out, halfdrowned. Again he entered; and now, by great efforts, he attached the rope to the arrested bench, and it was moored to a rock.

Huge logs and frame-pieces of pine now dashed past us in quick succession. What could these be? Alas! they were parts of two chalets or huts, carried away piecemeal before our eyes. Now and then a door-jam, or part of a window-frame stood up edge-ways out of the waters, and then we understood the ruin that the floods were inflicting. As to folder, parts of outhouses, cattle-sheds and the like, the river made playthings of them all. All! Poor peasants of Sass! Who can tell how badly the floods dealt with you on that fatal

The rearing of the flood, continuing, as it did, all day, exercised a saddening effect. Add to this the loud clashing of great rocks and stones against each other, and the long unabated rise of the waters, and any one may imagine the depressing thoughts which weighed upon me. These were only allevi-ated by occasional odd incidents. One such was the terror of a French lady staying at the house, and her expressions of alarm. "Oh!" said she, "not one of us will escape! The house is crumbling down, and my poor boy will never see his mother again! Besides all, sir, they cannot cook any dinner to day, and the cellar is under water. No wine, sir; no mest! Ah, sir, this is a dreadful death to die! We shall be starved, and we shall be drowned !

Ab, poor Henri! O my poor orphan boy!" Happily, however, the waters did sensibly abate about four or five o'clock. The front wall was a kind of hydrometer. The windowsills were the strongest divisions, and I could see that the lower stones would slowly reappear. Very slow, and very long and anxiously awaited, was their first faint reappear-When at length they did emerge from the muddy billows, hope emerged with them, and we felt that, although we might still be prisoners, we should not be drowned. So deep, bowever, was the dread, and so strong the terror inspired by the deluge, that a whole party, consisting of the French lady before mentioned

and four other friends, all of whom had been gay and jecose the day before, determined not to sleep in the house another night. How could they get out? They were water-bound —water-prisoners. Father Imseng was called to their council, and assured them the house would now stand. They entreated him to provide them with a boat or any means of exit. But there was no other open inn-no attainable house near this inn. The only resource at the Father's command was the little relinquished "Monto Rosa" inn at the rise of the bill. How could the French people get out and enter it? One exit only was conceivable and practicable. An attic window of our hotel, the Monte Moro, abutted on the said hill. All who could get up to this attic window, and out of it, might easily descend upon the wet grass of the hill behind. This resource was hailed with acclamation—only, how could the window be reached? Presently, there appeared a man who carried a short ladder. This was applied so ingeniously that every French man and woman could mount it, and get upon the grass outside. To see them successively mounting and descending was worth all the terrors and sufferings of the day.

Next morning, they re-entered the inn by the same method, and at night made a similar exit. One gentleman only was bold enough to dare the dangers of the hotel at night, and he kept me company for two or three evenings. This young Frenchman and I had the whole upper rooms to ourselves, and my young companion endeavored to edify me during the hours we were together by assuring me that he did not believe in a God, or a devil, or the Bible. It was quite true, he said, that he called himself a Catholic, because he was not a Protestant; but as to religion, it was certainly all priesteraft. Pleasant and profitable company this in a deserted house, surrounded by the eddying and roaring waters! One evening I ventured to remark that if I were in the slightest degree disposed to doubt of a God and a Bible, I felt more than ever convinced that there was a devil.

In a day or two we got out of the inn door by means of fir-trees and poles laid in continuous lengths. None but an eve-witness could credit the havor and ruin displayed all around. The village itself was a wilderness of mud and stones, much like the bottom of a drained lake. The floor of the church was covered with the finest silt and sand, which had been carried in by the doors. To detail how many wooden bridges had been broken up, how many trees had been rooted up, and how many logs and poles were confusedly huddled together, would be in vain. In brief, all communication was interrupted. We were cut off from men, and could only dream of climbing mountains. One little incident amused us. There lay beneath our window, before the flood, some large wooden ninepins and a huge wooden bowl. Of the ninepins none were recovered, but the great bowl was found amongst blocks and rocks about twelve miles down the valley, near Stahlden.

Finding it almost impracticable to reach Visp, and that in all probability I should have to go over the mountain from Stahlden to Tourtemagne, I resolved to cross the Moro to Macugnaga. Usually the walk from Saas to the Mattmarh See inn takes three hours; but now we had to climb over rocks and pursue a tortuous course, so that four hours were necessary, and on arriving at the so-called See I was surprised to find it quite dry. It fact it had all run down under and by the side of the Alialein glacier-a phenomenon not before observed. Doubtless the great flood had forcibly drained it off.

At the little inn, where I had counted on laying in provisions for the Moro Pass, there was no food. Even the bread was eaten up, and only one bottle of horrible ordinaire could be obtained for self and guide. Over the Moroments. All these established themselves in then, foodless, to Macuguaga-this was the invarious corners—some on the landing outside | evitable order of the day; and a long, famishing the salle, and some inside of it. Dread or | walk I found it to be. At Macagnaga I heard of-and witnessed the results of-the fearful storm. In going to the Belvedere on the glacier the usual path was quite obliterated, and I had to mount over boulders and rocks. A deep, dry channel, or rather ravine, was manifest at the termination of the glacier, and told numistakably of a sweeping water-flow. But the most re-markable eight I saw was that of a number of pine-logs, and apparently planks, lying lengthways in amongst the stones, singularly jammed in that they appeared to be almost interstratified with the loosely agglomerated boulders, and auggested fore bly the idea of a future geological stratum containing layers of fossil wood. Altogether, the denuding and relaying power of the water in all these desolated valleys was geologically suggestive, and instructive in a high degree.

In walking down the beautiful Val Anzasea to Ponte Grande, I beheld the most melancholy proofs of the ravages of the late floods; and in some places I had to make deviations by no means easy or pleasant. But it was at the gold-mining works of Pesterana that I witnessed the most coatly damage. The washing floors of the mining works were thoroughly desolated; and an old Cornish captain, there resident, pointed out to me with deep sorrow the course of the waters and the ruin of the works.

I should not like to state from mere recollection the monetary amount of the damage done in this deep valley by the inundation; but, from my own observation, I am sure it must have been very great. No one recollected such a terrific downrush in any former storm. The Cornish captain described the noise of the resistless waters as equal to that of "a thousand

When, on completing my tour round Monte Rosa, I crossed the Theodule glacier and looked up at the Matterhorn in its unclouded glory, it might almost have been doubted it that unequalled obelisk could have felt the effect of the late tempest. Soaring high up into the sky, it seemed as calm as a mighty natural sphinx. Only its riddle has now been solved, and climbers have found the safe way up to its head and down its shoulders. At that very time three Englishmen were upon it, and near the beginning of the final arrele. I should not have discerned them, but the Baron P- discovered them, and, opening his hunter's telescope, held it aright for me until I found the three little black moving specks in the field of the glass. The Baron's eagle-eye, trained long in chamois-hunting, saw the climbers without the aid of the glass; but none of the rest of our party could trace the adventurers without the telescope.

The next day I conversed, at Zermatt, with one of the three mountaineers. He told me that he found the last part of the ascent more difficult then anything he had before done or then expected; and from a subsequent study of the gable root-like termination of the great mountain, while I stood at its base, I could

well imagine the nature of the final difficulty. From Herr Seiler, now the landlord of the two hotels at Zermatt, I learned that, in all, seven ascents of the Matterborn had been made this very fine summer. It can be ascended from the Italian or the Swiss side, and a strong controversy and rivalry exist as to these respective routes. It is not easy to acquiesce in the opinion of the Zermatt guides that the ronte is preferable from their side. Probably, the best course is that which Dr. Tyndall, I believe, adopted, viz., to ascend by the Italian,

and to descend by the Zermatt side. I was informed that there are huts now on both sides, erected for the lodgment of climbers during their first night. From Zermatt I beheld the light shown by the before-named party at night, and it shone down Zermatt like a low-placed, brilliant The Italian but is, I believe, higher up on the mountain than the Swiss, though both

are undistinguishable from below. Three of the Zermatt guides especially dedicate themselves to mounting the Matterhorn. Great, strong fellows are they, and high is their price, viz., 100 francs for each guide. 20 francs is their fee to the hut or cabane, and back; and I fancy that this latter expedition will become a favorite one to moderate climbers. From all I could ascertain, no climbers ever stay long on the summit even when they have attained it. The mountaineer before alluded to assuied me the cold was so intense that he could not remain much more than ten minutes on the top. A cold north wind (the most favorable wind for clear weather being a north wind) very fre quently sweeps this summit, and, indeed, the summits also of the neighboring mountains; and no man but an Esquimaux in native dress could stand long in such a wind on such a height. However, the view is not the chief object of mastering the Matterhorn.

One cause of fear naturally suggests itself while thinking of the ascent. As it is new au achievement which has passed out of the category of impossibles, it may too rapidly pass into that of the easily practicables. The latter it can never be. It seems, from all that is testified by the successful elimbers, to be, in the final ascent at least, very ardnous and rather dangerous. It can only be safely done in fine weather, and by men in good training. The frequency with which it may be done under such favorable conditions is apt to mislead the inexperienced. Hence it is to be feared that more accidents may happen on this majestic mountain of melancholy notoriety. While the attempt is made only by experienced mountaineers and good rock-mounters, all may go well; but if a number of novices or incapables make fools of themselves on the Matterhern, there will be more than two or three graves, bearing the inscription of "Killed on the Matterhore," in the little church-yard at Zermatt .- London Athenœum.

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Leaves Arch Street Wharf Leaves Soun Trenton,
saurday, Nov. 7, don't go Saturday, Nov. 7, 9 A.M.
Monday, "9, 15 A.M. Monday, "9, 11 A.M.
Tuesany, "10, 8 A.M. Tuesday, "27, 12 M.
Wed'ony, "11, 85; a.M. Wed'day, "11, 125; P.M.
Thursday "12 9 A.M. Intraday, "13, 1 P.M.
Friday, "18, 10 A.M. Friday, "13, 2 P.M.
Friest to Trenton, 40 cents each way; intermediate
places, 25 cents.

FOR WILMINGTON, CHESTER, and HOOK.—Fare, to cents. Excurwhere and teckets, to cents.
The scenars ARIPIL leaves CHESNUT Street
Wharf at 3 45 A. A., and resuming leaves Wilmington at 2 P. M. Excursion tickets, 15 cents. The
heamer 5, M. Fallow leaves Chesnur Street
Wharf at 3 P. M. Fare, 10 cents.

1012W

OPPOSITION TO THE COM-Steamer JOHN SYLVE-TER will make daily excusions to Winnington (Sundays excusion), togething at Chester and Marcus Houk, iteaving AROH Street what at 945 A. M. and 335 P. M. togething, leave Winnington at 7 A. M. and 1230 P. M. Light freights taken.

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JOSEPH & MITCHPLI, i Executors,
10 17561\* JACOB D. MITCHPLL, Mechanics B'k IMPROVED BALTIMORE

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