

taking her next meal up to the shoulders in water, - on a wooden tray, was placed a tiny coffee-pot, a pat of butter & slices of bread. We could discern the seat or benches running round the Bath, on which were seated persons in dark blue & dark red gowns. A mustached gentleman who would consider himself in the prime of life, was cutting leather-work on his floating table, other Bathers were preparing for a game at draughts, whilst one portly round-shouldered "party" of some sixty summers was executing a roving commission across the water, to salute some ladies in the opposite corner. Not being very careful of others, in his transit he, received a fair share of splashing from various mischievous maids en route. Judging from the array of work-baskets on the ledge of the Bath, the ladies dry their hands for knitting & crochet, tho' we saw nothing accomplished in this line.

At 7 o'clock our two maids, guides, & party turned their backs on the amusing scenes of

Leukerbad, to face the steps of the Gemmi.
Our pedestrians turned aside to see Mass laid
in a Popish Chapel, & to observe the curious
row of stuffed bears, suspended by some patriotic
Bourne, under the eaves of his chalet.

The first 3 miles of our expedition laid across
green pastures, bringing us to the base of the
perpendicular Gemmi, & on looking up its
bare, vertical surface, we were baffled to disco-
ver a path, or to understand how we should
reach its summit. In some parts, the path
was a mere groove, cut in the face of the huge
cliff, just wide enough for a mule to pass, & at
the turn of the zigzag, we constantly overhung
a depth of 500, or more feet. - It is classed
among the most extraordinary of all Alpine roads,
& was constructed a century ago, by a party of Lyones.
The zigzags have been ingeniously contrived,
for in many places the rocks overhang the path,
& an upper terrace of rocks projects farther out
than the one immediately below it. - The awful
power of those rocks as we crept under their

beetling walls, made one tremble as they irresistibly forced upon the mind thoughts of the end, & upheaval of all things.

Our toil now began, as we on foot fought up its intermediate twistings. In some of the most hazardous parts a low parapet had been raised, & rails placed as protection. Our mules here were rejected, as we felt that two legs required less caution than six. We did not forget to test the marvellous echoes.

"Stirn Gemme listens to as full a cry,
As multitudinous a harmony
Of sounds — — — ranging on ethere
Through the bleak concave waters thro' wondrous
Of airy voices, locked in unison
Faint, — far off — near — deep, solemn, & sublime."
Wordsworth.

The top gained at last we had our first snow field, as reward sufficient for our exertions. Here on the 2nd of July, under a broiling sun, two members of the Junior United Alpine Club, who had got ahead of the party, ascended us with

a shower of snowballs, thus robbing of its novelty
a similar testimonial, which in our gratitude
for past favours, we had been planning for them.
Still we were not to be thwarted in our presentation
so made an offering that was directed to the heart
but unfortunately struck the eye of our gal-
lant Professor, with a blow that made him mo-
tionless. His glass eye rolled to his feet!
Seeking about, it was easily discovered on the
edge of a snow bank, & slipped into its place. —

(H. B. Our Professor, of course wore spectacles)
While breading the results of our temerity, we
retired to the arsenal for fresh ammunition
when — shall it be recorded? — we found
these two, — who at home are brave defenders of
the British Fair, — now ignominiously taking
shelter under umbrellas! — Three out of that
once respectable & respected community of five
were now shattered wrecks! Oh! Let not
Dagster apply to Miss Mary for a reference
that shall testify to the durability of his
"saturnics"; or Miss Sarah plead persuasively

for dainty handkerchiefs, - or Miss Eliza flatter herself
on her brown, double-twill, returning home perfect,
as it left its peg in the wardrobe. Alas! for
those three, carved-ivory beaks that left old England
so jauntily, they are now, if not like Mr. Pickelby's
mythical umbrella, "left behind some unknown
door," - are as invisible to the naked eye; - a
glance at their remains satisfying a candid
observer, that foul play has been administered
to those particular members of that itinerating
race. Yet not all are so humiliated, - that
Cornish one could always hold its own, in
the society of its kindred. - It might be
classed amongst representative umbrellas. Its
cudgel-head would respond to the subrignet
"John Bull". To a mind of a political turn, its
ample shades might cover in thought a "Cornish
pocket-Borough". - A representative of its kind, yet
yet it had the happy distinction, unlike so
many others, of always being found under the
care of its owner, when its work of shade, to which
so many of us were indebted, - was over. - May

that suggestive umbrella live to a green
old age, whilst others are now in the green
& yellow leaf. Closing our shattered
umbrellas we turned from our battle-field
to fall into ecstasies of delight in disco-
vering a richly variegated bed of Alpine
flowers. The regal purple of the gentian-
ella contrasted beautifully with the petals
of the delicate, white anemone. Blue &
white forget-me-nots clustered in patches
large enough to supply the demands of
all "happy lovers" thereof. We gathered of
their beauty, but lamented we could pre-
serve so few, or if dried that they could sup-
ply so faded a reflection of their natural
brilliance. And now having reached
our highest point on the summit 7000
feet, odd, the greatest altitude yet attained
by the Junior, United Alpine Club - the
town of Leukerbad 2,000 feet below, only



View from the Gemmi.

looks like a bed of mushrooms, while in the distance, we get our only view of the vast peaks of the Monte Rosa chain, the Weisshorn, Matterhorn, & Dent Blanche, - "clothed in winter's icy mail".

Then began our descent, traversing the sunlit gash that edges the dreary Saubaug, "fit image of unrest, & gloom & woe". -

This lake of dark water is only fed by melted snow, & is walled round by "scree" &

& naked limestone rocks that seem too barren
for even the hardiest lichens." | The universal
shade of drab that reigned is only broken by
the snowy masses of the Wildstrübel above to
the right, - neither bird, or insect seems to people
the hollows of this deserted region; - It was
a positive relief to see the solitary inn of the
Schwarenbach in the distance & to see some
signs of human habitation. At this little
Inn we halted, & partook of a noon-day tea.
Anderegg Melchior, ~~was~~ ^{used to} accompany Mr. Kinch-
liffe of the other Alpine Club, was the first guide
to ascend the Alpe in 1856. At this chalet, he
resides, & here he offered his carved curiosities,
wild flowers for sale. These mountains rise 5540 ft
to the right of the path, immediately leaving the
Schwarenbach, on the Handersteg road. On its
cornice, stands a gigantic glacier, which having
no sloping channel in which to slide, accumu-
lates into a prodigious mass, that once in a cen-
tury loses its balance, to come thundering over
to the base. It is now 67 years since the last