

The snow-covered mountain of which we now get just a glimpse at the left of the Jungfrau is the Mönch. We shall not take that in from the Schynige Platte, but shall look still farther to the left (east). See how the proposed standpoint (24) and our field of vision from it are marked on Map No. 5.

24. Grindelwald Valley, the Wetterhorn and Schreckhorn from Schynige Platte

We are looking nearly east. Interlaken is behind us now; the Jungfrau is away at our right.

We saw these same summits from Pilatus (Stereograph 12), but they were only notches in a mountain wall. Now we begin to feel their individuality. How near they seem! But it is, in fact, more than ten miles across the Grindelwald Valley at our feet, to the Schreckhorn, or Terror Peak, with the ridge of pinnacles along its crest, and the Wetterhorn at the left, is still farther away. It is almost impossible to judge distances correctly in this clear mountain air. Only after one has had long experience can he learn to take the quality of the atmosphere properly into account.

They say the silence of those great heights is something awesome. Here where we stand, on this upland pasture, we may have bird companions, and hear the voices of streams. But up on one of those peaks there is never the sound of a bird's note, never the tinkle of a brook, never anything but the wind and the crash of sudden avalanches of rocks and ice. Up there on the Wetterhorn one might

stand where the mountain-side below him slopes steeply for a few rods, then curves inward, leaving an unobstructed view down to the valley nine thousand feet below,—a place where one needs a clear head and a steady foot!

A good deal of the snow from those two summits evidently settles into the high valley between the two crests, where we see the broad expanse of white. That is a part of the Upper Grindelwald Glacier. Its accumulated masses of snow become compacted into ice and gradually push down into the valley far below, where they feed the Black Lutschine, one of the many little rivers of this region. The stream comes down through this Grindelwald Valley just in front of us, and flows to the west (right), joining the White Lutschine and turning towards Interlaken, away behind us. It was this Grindelwald Glacier and the busy Black Lutschine that helped build up the sand-bar on which Interlaken stands (Stereograph 23).

It would be a fine adventure to climb one of these magnificent peaks, but every climber takes the gravest risks. Not long ago a party of Englishmen were climbing the Schreckhorn when a rock avalanche cut the rope that tied them together, severing it three inches from one man's belt,—as close a call as one would ever care to experience. The Peak of Terrors is well named.

If we should follow the stream that drains this Grindelwald Valley down to where it joins the White Lutschine we should, as we know, reach the Lauterbrunnen Valley. This appears on Map No. 5 just southwest of our present

point of outlook. Trace the way south, up the valley six miles or so, and you find another location marked 25. The red lines on the map are curiously uneven. The line at the right ends abruptly at a very short distance, showing that our vision is quickly obstructed on that side; the line at the left is much longer, promising a view of considerable reach.

*25. Staubbach Waterfall in the Lauterbrunnen Valley **

This is the "sky-born waterfall" of Wordsworth's verse,—the waterfall that everybody tries to describe. Goethe succeeded better than the rest:

"In clouds of spray
Like silver dust,
It veils the rock
In rainbow hues,
And dancing down
With music soft
Is lost in air."

Words could not come much nearer.

The enormous height of those cliffs becomes more and more impressive as we look up toward their far-away summits. How very far away they are! The tree-tops on those heights look like soft hair on the body of some gigantic, furry monster. No wonder. They are a thousand feet

* Do observe how exactly the map indicated the range of our view here. At the right the view is cut off by those cliffs. At the left we can look six or seven miles to the Breitlauenen Glacier at the head of the valley.