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...Level of traverse.

...Exit from East gully.

PILLAR OF ELIDR FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

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THE PILLAR OF ELIDR.

By J. M. A. THOMSON, A.C.

THE Elidr Fawr has hitherto been regarded only as a fine belvédère, commanding extensive views and affording a pleasant route of connection between the Nant Ffrancon and the Pass of Llanberis; that it possesses additional attractions was a discovery made in the Easter vacation.

On April 14th a party, consisting of R. Backwell, G. Collins, W. P. Haskett Smith, R. Williams, W. J. Williams, and myself, ascended the East face of Foel Goch from the cwm at its base.*

The climb begins in a steep but shallow gully on the south side of the prominent lower buttress, and when this gives out upon a heather-grown slope, a short divergence is made to the north. We then follow up to the summit an arête forming the left side-wall of a featureless gully that furrows the centre of the face.

No imposing obstacles occur to bar the line of advance, and such moderate difficulties as this new ascent presents are caused by the absence of ideal holds at several points in both sections of the climb.

While the Alpine instincts of the main body led them to visit the summit of Elidr, W. J. W. and myself effected a flanking movement from Bwlch y Brecan, and, after ten

* It may be noted that this red cwm is marked on the Ordnance Maps Cwm Perfedd, while the green cwm lying under Moel Perfedd is given as Cwm Goch.

minutes' coasting along the face in a north-westerly direction, were confronted by the object of our search.

The crag proved to be a pillar of a size and character unique in this district; bearing somewhat the same relation to the parent cliff (which appears unclimbable at this point) as the Parson's Nose does to Clogwen Person, it is on a far finer scale, and offers climbing of immeasurably greater interest and variety. Rising boldly from the slope above Marchlyn Mawr to a height of some 220 feet, it throws down on the west side a perpendicular wall, which may be estimated at 150.

The East gully was ascended to the neck, and the two-storeyed cave pitch with which it terminates yielded to assault when masses of dripping moss had been removed from the left wall.

A traverse of the bridge boulders brought the party to the foot of the south chimney, or, more strictly, the beginning of a vertical fissure, blocked in places, but continuous to the north side. By means of this we penetrated to the centre of the crag, and, after climbing 50 to 60 feet, made an exit into daylight through an opening on the summit, the arrival proving somewhat a *coup de théâtre*. A view of Carnedd Dafydd, framed in the deep depression of Bwlch y Breccan, is the most striking feature in the outlook from the top. Descent from the neck was made by the easy West gully. Some days later, when a second visit was paid with R. W., the arête on the lake side was climbed from the foot; the most interesting part is reserved for the finish, where we find ourselves flanked on the right by a high wall, and on the left by a smooth curtain of rock. In the ascent between the two a wedged stone allures us to a position of exceptional security, for the more vigorously we draw on it, the more tightly we are squeezed in a vice, whence an escape in an upward direction seems to necessitate frantic struggles. Once free of the "gauge," we reach a good standpoint on the flat top of the curtain, and, leaning across the intervening gap, climb out on to the crest of the wall. The peculiarity of the situation gives to this part of the problem a deceptively difficult appearance.

A third route was made by passing from the neck along a ledge on the west face; the narrowness of the traverse, and its horizontal position on a vertical wall, can scarcely fail to recall pleasant recollections to those acquainted with the joys of dolomite climbing. Continuing a distance of 80 to 90 feet, it gives access to the north side of the fissure, into which again we vanish from sight, to reappear some minutes later on the summit.

Independent of this fissure, and to the north of it, an extraordinary rift cleaves the crag vertically east and west; the bed descends in the former direction for 130 feet, and at an easy angle, until a wedged rock forms a considerable pitch near the lower exit. Two of the party, while our artist was making dangerous experiments with a new camera, sought refuge in its depths. The cleft was found to terminate with uncompromising abruptness on a face, and though but a few feet separate it from the line of ascent previously described, the connection, by means of an upward traverse, was only made with great difficulty, and this not wholly due to the wet and slippery condition of the rocks. The occupant of the cleft, who had already curtailed his time allowance for reaching Bethesda, was compelled by the delay at this point to make a more rapid descent by the chimney route.

It will readily be gathered that the ascents of this singular crag are all too short, but each has a distinctive feature, and the sum of them represents a very respectable climb, which a pleasing variety and an element of novelty combine to render attractive. Candour, too, compels me to add that there yet remains a crack variation, which the time at our disposal did not permit us to examine.

A fast walker will reach Ogwen Cottage by way of "Cwm Goch" in 45 minutes from the foot of the Pillar.