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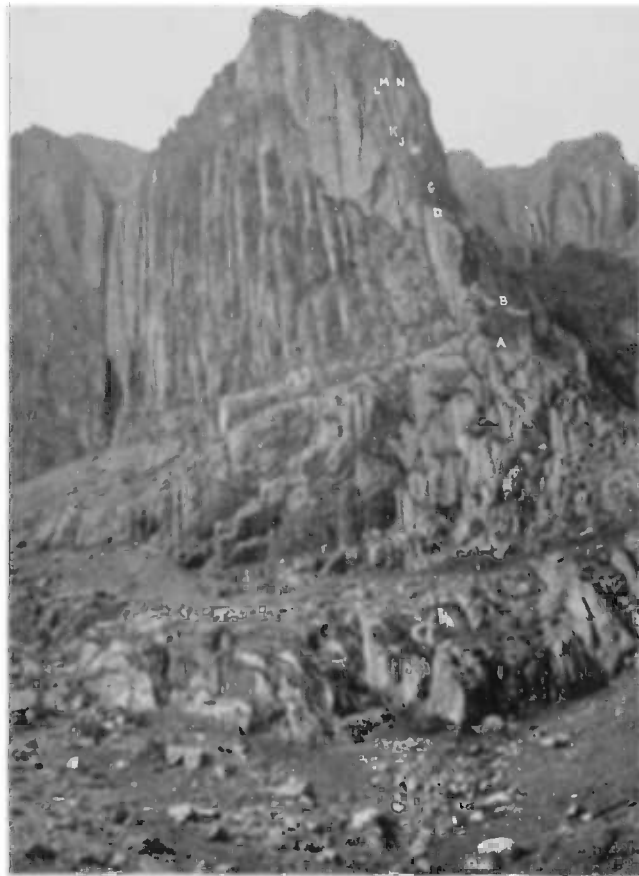
Author/Photographer: L J Oppenheimer

Photographer: Dr J H Taylor

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CLOUD WREATHS ON THE PILLAR.



Photos. by L. J. O.
PILLAR ROCK FROM THE NORTH.



THE PILLAR FROM THE NORTH-EAST AND NORTH-WEST.

Photos. by L. J. O.

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THE NORTH WEST CLIMB ON THE PILLAR.

By LEHMANN J. OPPENHEIMER.

ON June 8th, 1906, this climb, which has been tried and looked at for many years, was successfully accomplished. It keeps fairly close to the N.W. angle of the rock all the way up, but its position on the Pillar will be best seen on the accompanying photos, corresponding letters on which indicate in every case the same actual spot.

The earliest attempt that I can hear of was made by Mr. Haskett-Smith in one of his many explorations, which led to the discovery of the North Climb. He reached the top of the buttress, E, and from there went steeply up, but, being alone, he concluded that it was not precisely the place for a solitary climber, and came down. The fascinations of the North Climb, which he accomplished soon after, probably diverted the attention of many from the North West angle.

On June 15th, 1905, an attempt was made by Mr. Fred. Botterill, whose name will be best known to our members in connection with two remarkably daring new climbs on Sca Fell. He and Mr. W. Palmer ascended the buttress and reached the point marked K on the climb. They then went

up a chimney above this and also up one to the right of K, leading by turns, and did much that was more difficult than anything on the present climb, but could find no way out. I felt sure, however, when they told me where they had been, that the route had been discovered, for I also was anxious to find a way, and had begun, less sportsman-like, by exploring from the top. In 1903, Dr. Sheldon and I reached X, in the photo of the Low Man, from above, and found the rocks below this hopeless. A year later, Mr. P. Spencer and I went down by the chimney O, N to M, which is almost on a level with the highest points reached by Messrs. Botterill and Palmer. I then saw what seemed to me a route for some distance lower down, and we had decided at our first good opportunity to try and reach it from below. However, we now asked Botterill and Palmer to make another attempt, while we waited above to show them the way from M to the top. Unfortunately they tried to go straight from K to M, and got eventually into great difficulties on some overhanging rocks just below M; a storm came on just then and they had to make use of our rope, which spoilt their climb. Dr. J. H. Taylor, who was with them on this occasion, took a route, more to the left, which looked less promising from below, but proved better, and in this way the discovery of the route was completed.

The first orthodox ascent was made on June 8th, this year, by Mr. Arthur Botterill, Dr. J. H. Taylor and myself, led throughout by Mr. Fred. Botterill. To our great regret, Mr. Palmer, who had helped very largely in the discovery, was not able to join us.

A reference to the photos may make the following details clearer. The climb starts at A, on the Terrace, about 30 yards from the waterfall. Short chimneys lead from A to B, from which C is reached by a traverse to the left, over a steep slab. Back and knee work, up a 40 feet chimney, leads on to the ridge of the buttress at D, from which it is walk along the top to E. From E to G is a short scramble as far as F, and then a traverse on a grass ledge to the left. So far the climb is only of moderate difficulty, but the next piece is exposed,



Photo. by L. J. O.

TOP OF THE PILLAR (LOW MAN).



Photo. by Dr. J. H. TAYLOR.

THE NORTH-WEST CLIMB FROM BELOW.



Photo. by L. J. O.

HALF WAY UP THE NORTH-WEST CLIMB.

and requires careful balance. The third man, standing at G, can look after the leader's rope, and instruct the second man, at F (out of sight and hearing of the leader) when to pay out from a belay there. Ten feet of steep rock leads to a place like the corner of a room; this is ascended for some distance, and then the more broken right wall followed to a good belay at H, 60 feet above G, and requiring 80 feet of rope out from F. To J and K is easier again, with belay pins at each. K to L is the most difficult part of the climb. From the belay, a step or two to the left and up leads to an open chimney, which is ascended for 30 or 40 feet. Then comes an upward traverse to the right, and over a small grass ledge at L, very awkward to get on to. When this is passed, the leader is safe, and, 15 feet higher, up steep grass, is a belay at M, 80 feet above K. From M to N is a 15 feet traverse to the right over rough rock, leading to the final chimney N, O. This overhangs, but the chockstones (behind which the rope might be threaded) form good handholds.

From the start to the top of the buttress is about 150 feet, from there to the top of the Low Man is over 300. The time taken to the cairn on the Pillar summit was about five hours.

On August 23rd the second ascent was made by Messrs. Robertson Lamb, W. L. Collinson, R. Horton and E. W. Steeples, who appear to have climbed the part K, L somewhat differently, and found it extremely difficult owing to the wet state of the rocks.

It is a climb to be recommended to a party with a good leader, and when weather favours. It is easier than Walker's Gully and Savage Gully hard by, and the belays make it perfectly safe for those who follow. The loose stones above the final chimney should be cautiously treated; in the attempt on June 17th, 1905, my rope dislodged one which nearly hit Dr. Taylor on the buttress below.