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978-1-108-06121-6 - The Alps: Or, Sketches of Life and Nature in the Mountains  
Hermann Alexander Berlepsch  
Frontmatter  
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Following the precedent and standards set by the Baedeker guides, travel literature enjoyed great popularity during the later nineteenth century. This guidebook to the Alps, written by Hermann Alexander Berlepsch (1814?–83) and translated from German by the renowned author and mountaineer Leslie Stephen (1832–1904), was first published in English in 1861. This was during the golden age of alpinism, when many major peaks were ascended for the first time. While later mountaineers concentrated on climbing as a sport, earlier expeditions were of a more scientific nature; this guidebook, which provides detailed information pertaining to the geology, flora and fauna of the Alps, is a reflection of this ambition. Also containing descriptions of village life and Alpine customs, it enjoyed a significant readership in its day and was also translated into French. It remains an instructive work in the history of alpinism and travel writing.

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HERMANN ALEXANDER BERLEPSCH



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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,  
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108061216](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108061216)

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2013

This edition first published 1861  
This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-06121-6 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

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ALPINE VILLAGE.

THE ALPS  
OR  
SKETCHES  
OF  
LIFE AND NATURE IN THE MOUNTAINS

BY  
H. BERLEPSCH

TRANSLATED BY  
THE REV. LESLIE STEPHEN, M.A.  
Fellow and Tutor of Trinity Hall, Cambridge

With 17 Plates from Designs by Emil Rittmeyer

LONDON  
LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, AND ROBERTS  
1861

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NOTE BY THE TRANSLATOR

ON

THE EXPLORATIONS OF 1861

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*Note by the Translator on the Explorations of 1861.*

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THE season of 1861 has been remarkable in the Alps for a long continuance of fine weather, and (as a natural consequence) equally remarkable for the number of successful attempts upon mountains hitherto unascended. The following is a list of the principal ascents that have come within the knowledge of the Translator, and is given as a supplement to the chapter on mountain tops :—The most difficult exploit of the season was probably the ascent of the Weisshorn by Professor Tyndall. Besides this, the Monte Viso was ascended for the first time by Messrs. W. Mathews and Jacomb; the Lyskamm by Messrs. Ramsay, Rennison, Sibson, Pilkington, Hall, Hudson, Stephenson, and Hardy; the Pelvoux by Mr. Whymper; the Nord-end of Monte Rosa by Sir F. and Mr. E. Buxton and Mr. Cowell, and the highest peak of the Schreckhörner by the Translator. The old Weissthor was crossed for the first time for many years (if not absolutely for the first time) by Mr. Tuckett, who also crossed from Saas to Zermatt by the Fée glaciers, (a route discovered last year by the Translator) besides a new pass over the glaciers of Chermontane to Prerayen in the Valpelline, and one to the south-west of Mont Blanc. Messrs. W. Mathews and

Jacomb crossed the range of the Monte Rosa between the Twins and the Lyskamm. Other new passes were effected by Mr. S. Winkworth over the Argentière and Neewaz glaciers, and by Sir F. and Mr. E. Buxton and Mr. Cowell over the Chermontane and Otemma glaciers from the Val de Bagne into the Eringer Thal.

An ascent of the Bernina (the first by an Englishman, though not the first on record) was made by Mr. Hardy and Mr. Kennedy, and the route from St. Gervais to Mont Blanc by the Aiguille and Dôme de Gouté and the Bosse was for the first time actually made (by Mr. Tuckett and the Translator), although Mr. Hudson had previously fully shown its practicability and in fact made the whole route at different times.

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