

## OUR ASCENT OF THE EIGER - SEPTEMBER 1889

Mr. King, Katie King, Alice Stobart, Eleanor Stobart.

### Friday August 9th

Started from Murren at 6.30. Rain stopped and turned out to be a lovely day. Took train to Lucerne. Train again to Brienz. Lovely journey but slow over the Brüing. Steamer again down Brienzer. Could see past Giesbach to Interlaken. Took carriage to Lauterbrunnen 1½ hours all along valley. Got rooms at Stanbach. Meal at 6.30. To bed early.

### Saturday August 10th

Breakfast at 8.30. Walked up to Murren - 2 hours and a hot climb. Well rewarded with view of glorious snow mountains. Jungfrau and Mönch just opposite. Got rooms at Hotel des Alpes. Down to Kurhaus after lunch. Played tennis. Meal at 7 p.m.

### Sunday August 11th

Pouring wet morning. To Blumenthal after lunch. Lovely flowers. Heavy rain. Down to Kurhaus.

### Monday August 12th

Lovely morning. Wonderful view of snow mountains. Decided to leave Hotel des Alpes and join rest of the party at Kurhaus. Moved up to 3rd floor room with good view. Meal at 6.30. All to Hotel des Alpes for dancing. Mother played the piano!

### Tuesday August 13th

Very cold. Played games in the billiard room. Very noisy!

### Wednesday August 14th

Had an exciting climb to head of Blumenthal and Edelweiss. Really very dangerous as grass was so slippery and rocks so precipitous. Everyone very scared and so thankful to be down safely. Out from 2-6 p.m.

### Thursday August 15th

Walked along towards Isenfluh.

Friday August 16th

Up for 8 a.m. breakfast to go up Schilthorn with Mr. King and party of 16, but weather too uncertain. Went for a walk climb to Stone Man down Sophienthal. Crossed avalanche in snow. Guides had to cut steps - most exciting! Saw about 12 avalanches and chamois in distance. Found gentians. A most precipitous stony descent and home the whole length of the valley. Tea at Gimmerwald and then home. Out from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mr. King excellent guide and companion.

Saturday August 17th

Lovely day and very hot.

Sunday August 18th

Tea at Gimmerwald,

Monday August 19th

Lovely day. Picnic tea in woods near Spritzbach. Very steep climb to see waterfall. Discussed climbing Schilthorn all evening.

Tuesday August 20th

Very wet so had to give up our expedition. Tea at Gimmerwald.

Wednesday August 21st

Up at 5 a.m. and party of 16 started for Schilthorn. Long trudge up and mist and rain part of the way. Got to the top at 9 a.m. Very cold. Had splendid glissade coming down by Schiethal. Rather steep descent. Back at 12.45. We felt relieved we had at last accomplished the "tea pot". Had a bath and went to bed for 2½ hours. Danced in evening.

Thursday August 22nd

Very misty and rainy. Sorry to leave Mürren. Walked down to Lauterbrunnen in pouring rain. Had lunch and started at 3 p.m. for Wengen Alp. Eleanor and I had a horse between us. Stiff climb for about an hour and latter part of walk very muddy. Thick mist and no view. Early to bed.

#### Friday August 23rd

Thick mist and no view. Started for Grindelwald at 11.15. Very muddy walk but no rain. Got in at 1.30 and found our rooms in Defendence. Mother and Father arrived in carriage from Mürren.

#### Saturday August 24th

Raining till 12. After lunch Ambrose, Katie King and I started for Upper Glacier. A lovely ascent through woods by Chalet Milchbach and then by ladders ascended slope of Mettenberg and reached the top of glacier which we crossed only being roped once! Returned by the Enge - a very narrow sheep path skirting the Wetterhorn. Back at 6.30.

#### Sunday August 25th

Cold and damp. Rained all the afternoon.

#### Monday August 26th

Still unsettled - but no rain! Set off with Ambrose, Zerbrucken and Mr. King. Stiff pull up to the Bäregg left side of Lower Glacier - 1½ hours. Descended very steep flight of steps to the Eismeer which we crossed and followed up to stone hut of Zäsenburg. Lovely view of Schreckhorn, Eiger, etc. Scrambled up and over rocks (roped up once) up to Zäsenburghorn, discussed crossing the Fiescher Glacier but impossible on account of having no spectacles, gaiters, etc. Lovely glissade down. Katie King and I nearly landed in a crevasse! Proposed crossing glacier which we did. Snow, hail and rain came on and we got very wet. Descended to Eismeer and back by Bäregg - not back till 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday August 27th

Weather a little better. Walked to our "flower" avalanche and got lovely fern roots. Took 1½ hours.

#### Wednesday August 28th

Up at 5.30 a.m. and at 7 a.m. led by Mr. King started for the Schwarzhorn (9613). Lovely climb along and up the Grindelalp through fir woods and open meadows. Great anointing with vaseline and powder, setting of veils and black spectacles, before our snow ascent of 2½ hours in really deep snow. Got to summit in 5 hours. Spent one hour there and had lunch. Exciting steep run down, two and two, over deep snow and rocks. Lovely views especially at Great Scheideck where we stopped for tea. Great excitement over a French woman who paraded about in

knickerbockers and gents get up. Got home at 5 p.m. Mr. King very kind and helpful.

#### Thursday August 29th

A perfect day. Breakfast at 8 a.m. decided not to go onto Paris but stay on here longer. Everyone delighted. Mr. King started off with Ambrose and Zerbrucken for 3 days climbing. They got to Beryli hut in 8 hours and hope to ascend Vieschhorn tomorrow and Grunhorn on Saturday.

#### Friday August 30th

Glorious day. Breakfast with Katie and Mr King at 9 a.m. and then all over to Schwarzer-Adler and saw our party through telescope just leaving summit of Vieschhorn. Two members of our party went to Faulhorn from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Saturday August 31st

Another perfect day. Up at 5 a.m. and at 6.30 a.m. Katie King and Party started for Wald spitz. Lovely walk of 2 hours through fir woods. Mr. King tried new ascent of Eiger but too difficult.

#### Sunday September 1st

Discussion about possible ascent of Eiger. Father and Mother gave us permission to go with Mr, King.

#### Monday September 2nd

Lovely day and very hot. Busy packing and then whole party to be photographed at Lichtenberger in our walking costumes. Eiger party was Mr. King, Katie King, Eleanor, myself, Ambrose and Zerbrucken all roped together, dresses turned up, gaiters and black spectacles. At 3 p.m. Eiger party started including our two guides Muller and Gotsch. Got to Little Scheidegg at 6,15. Weather good. Bed at 8.30.



Tuesday September 3rd

Up at 2 a.m. and ready equipped before 3 a.m. Weather not very good. After breakfast sat and watched clouds till 6 a.m. Decided not to try ascent and began to pack up and go home. Suddenly clouds cleared and our guides said we could go after all. Started off in good spirits. Crossed the moraine and then began our 7 hour climb. We were roped after the first 1½ hours. Stopped for good breakfast. Long pull up over slippery rocks and crumbling shale, with some nasty scrambles quite close to the edge. Last two hours Ambrose had hard work to cut steps in ice. Clouds nearly cleared off and we reached the summit at 1 p.m. Only about 6 foot square. Lovely views but very cold. Had brandy on sugar. It seemed an endless climb down and some parts so slippery. The whole hotel out to meet us. We can hardly believe we have been to the summit of the Eiger. Glad of hot baths and bed.