

**DOLOMITE STRONGHOLDS: THE LAST
UNTRODDEN ALPINE PEAKS; AN
ACCOUNT OF ASCENTS OF THE CRODA
DA LAGO, THE LITTLE AND GREAT
ZINNEN, THE CINQUE TORRI, THE
FÜNFFINGERSPITZE, AND THE LANGKOFEL**

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Dolomite strongholds: the last untrodden Alpine peaks; an account of ascents of the Croda da Lago, the Little and Great Zinnen, the Cinque Torri, the Fünffingerspitze, and the Langkofel by J. Sanger Davies

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J. SANGER DAVIES

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DOLOMITE STRONGHOLDS.

Dolomite Strongholds

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AN ACCOUNT
OF ASCENTS OF THE
CRODA DA LAGO, THE LITTLE
AND GREAT ZINNEN, THE CINQUE TORRI,
THE FÜNFFINGERSPITZE, AND THE LANGKOFEL

BY THE
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QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD; MEMBER OF
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WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY THE AUTHOR

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TO THE
LIBRARY OF
CALIFORNIA

P R E F A C E.

THE many charms of the Dolomite Mountains—their varied surfaces, romantic outlines, distinct individualities, and, above all, their marvellous colouring—had exercised a fascination over me, long before I learned that a few of these enchanting peaks had a reputation of their own from a mountaineering point of view.

There are, perhaps, a hundred of them in all, of various shapes and sizes, none rising above 11,000 feet, and few of them failing to attain a nearly approximate altitude. While some of these afford the easiest ascents of any mountains of equal height in the whole Alpine chain, others are so steep and smooth-sided that they offer the best rock-climbing in Europe, and

for some years presented the last "untrodden peaks" of the Alps.

Among these are the Kleine Zinne, first ascended in 1881; the Croda da Lago, conquered in 1884; and the Fünffingerspitze, which held out until 1890.

In comparison the other Alpine districts were soon exhausted. The Oberland was the earliest to succumb. The Pennine Alps surrendered with the capture of the Matterhorn by Mr. Whymper's party in 1865. The independence of the Dauphiné group ended when Monsieur Boileau de Castelnau surmounted the arduous summit of the Meije in 1877; while one solitary monarch lingered to Chamounix until the year 1878, when the Aiguille de Dru was ascended by Mr. Dent.

He thus writes of the Dolomites: "Certain it is that a climber of some experience among the Swiss rock-mountains, or the crystalline aiguilles of the Mont Blanc district, will probably find himself utterly at sea at first on

these jagged, steep little dolomite peaks. There are many tales of places quite inaccessible unless the climber takes off his boots."

By the kindness of a leading member of the Alpine Club I was provided with a list of the best of the Dolomites; and, with the aid of good guides and the memory of youthful scrambles on the cliffs of Britain, they were successfully attempted.

Although experts have said that "descriptions of rock-climbing are notoriously unsatisfactory," this book is a venturesome endeavour to put before the general public a simple record of personal experiences upon these unique rock-mountains. If there should be found in it enough of interest to stimulate a desire to make a closer acquaintance with the prettiest scenery and the grandest rocks in the Alps, no one will be better pleased than

THE AUTHOR.

