

II.

PILLAR ROCK.





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Cheshire

PILLAR ROCK

April 1929.

AND

NEIGHBOURING

CLIMBS

*A CLIMBERS' GUIDE*

BY

H. M. KELLY.

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Published by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club  
of the English Lake District.

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PILLAR ROCK  
AND  
NEIGHBOURING  
CLIMBS

*A CLIMBERS' GUIDE,*

BY

H. M. KELLY.

Barrow Printing Company Limited, Crown Works,  
Lawson Street, Barrow-in-Furness.

## PREFACE.

This volume is the second in the series of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club's Guides to the rock-climbing in the English Lake District—the first being Mr. Bower's Doe Crag. It is hoped that the whole area will be covered in three succeeding volumes. These will be uniform with the present one in size, and will preserve as far as possible the valuable quality of directness of description and lucidity of treatment which has characterised the volumes so far issued.

In presenting this number the Committee feel the heavy obligation under which the Club rests towards Mr. Kelly for the unsparing way in which he has carried out the very onerous responsibilities placed upon him by his task. They are glad to think that his work speaks for itself, and are happy to thank him on behalf of the members of the Club. They desire also to express their appreciation of the valuable assistance—photographic and otherwise—afforded by Mrs. Eden-Smith and Messrs. Doughty, Pritchard and Coates.

R. S. T. CHORLEY,

Hon. Editor.

Copies may be obtained 2/6 post free from Graham Wilson, c/o Town Clerk's Office, Warrington.

# PILLAR ROCK AND NEIGHBOURING CLIMBS.

BY H. M. KELLY.

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## PREFATORY NOTE.

It has been my endeavour to make the Guide as accurate as possible, and with this in view it was decided that all the descriptions should be first hand ; which, of course, involved the going over of each climb personally. It is of some considerable satisfaction to myself, and those who helped me in the work, that this high aim has been carried out, except as where indicated, e.g. Mallory's Climb, and even here much time was spent in trying to locate the route.



This task was utterly impossible without help ; and I feel very much indebted for the assistance given by Messrs. H. Coates, J. H. Doughty, R. E. W. Pritchard, Morley Wood, and Mrs. Eden-Smith. Pillar Rock is not at one's backdoor ; so many visits to Wasdale were necessary. But this side of the matter was infinitesimal compared with the patience required, and good temper needed, whilst surveying the climbs. One specially remembers, in this connection, five of us spending five hours doing the North West Climb in heavy rain, and the cheeriness displayed by the party under fearsome and depressing circumstances. That day will live in memory—for the leader at least, I fancy—to the end. It was an epic in our lives. Such occasions made the Guide worth while, and kept back protests when the "manager," morning after morning, said "Pillar" was the Order of the Day. This help, moreover, was not confined to doing the climbs, it was also vouchsafed when off them ; and in this connection am I specially under obligation to Doughty for his kindness in many ways.

### HISTORICAL.

That Pillar Rock should have attracted mankind over one hundred years ago, is not surprising in view of the fact of its unique position amongst our climbing grounds—an isolated crag on the breast of a mountain flanking one of the most desolate of our Lake District dales. The very remoteness of its surroundings, as well as the apparent inaccessibility of its summit, no doubt fascinated as well as awed the shepherds and others whose work or play took them within the neighbourhood, and its solitariness naturally became a challenge. Early Guide Books, farm fireside talk, and inn gossip, undoubtedly clothed it with a certain amount of romance ; and when Atkinson made his first ascent in 1826 it only increased the allurements of the place.

It is not very difficult to assign to this first ascent its due place in relation to our sport, for it cannot be gainsaid that in it was the first seed of what we know as English rock climbing. The climbing of rocks as a sport in itself parted ways with mountaineering as then known, i.e. the attainment

of the summit of a mountain by the least arduous route. True, there was no positive break from tradition ; the change was more evolutionary, but one can see here the branch forking from the stem. Here was a definite attempt to get to a summit—not of a mountain, mark you !—by way of difficult rocks.

John Atkinson's achievement was given prominent notice in the County paper which remarked that " tho' the undertaking had been attempted by *thousands*, it was always relinquished as hopeless." It was soon emulated by three shepherds, Messrs. J. Colebank, W. Tyson, and J. Braithwaite, who are supposed to have followed his route the same year ; although it is claimed by a writer in the " West Cumberland Times " of August 8th, 1891, that they reached the top of the Rock by the east side, on what grounds I do not know. Evidently there were " thousands " more failures, as the next recorded ascents were made by Lieut. Wilson, R.N. (1848), whom one might describe as the first tourist, C. A. M. Baumgartner, — Whitehead, and — Hartley (all in 1850). These may not have been the only persons who had ascended Pillar by this time, as Mr. Baumgartner says he found on the top " a bottle . . . containing a paper recording the names of preceding visitors," although unfortunately he does not give their names.

The feat was now, by the frequency of its accomplishment, becoming less fearsome, and Mr. George Seatree estimates that an approximately correct summary of ascents from 1826 to 1875 is as under :—

1826 to 1850	...	...	...	6 ascents.
1850 to 1866	...	...	...	22 "
1866 to 1873	...	...	...	31 "
1874...	...	...	...	10 "
1875...	...	...	...	50 "
Total				119

The first eight ascents were evidently by the Old West Route, with the possible exception of Baumgartner's, this, according to a letter of his, being by the east and north sides ;

and Mr. Whitehead's, who claims, according to Mr. J. W. Robinson, to have done the Corner above the Slab, i.e., the one into which the Pendlebury Traverse leads. In the early sixties a little more certainty creeps in, and new directions are discovered; for Messrs. Barnes and Graves worked out the Old Wall Route; and Messrs. Conybeare, Butler, and probably others climbed the east face, although there is some doubt whether the latter party did the Notch on this occasion or went by the "Easy Way" variation. A still newer route was made in the early seventies by Gardiner and the Pendleburys, although one can only look upon this as a substantial variation of the Slab and Notch.

The Rock now began to attract our women folk, and Miss A. Barker had the honour of the first ascent for her sex in 1870. Miss Mary Westmoreland accompanied her brothers (Thomas and Edward) up it in 1873 or 4, and Mrs. Ann Creer was the third in 1875. This latter year also saw the introduction to the Rock of that most interesting character, the Rev. James Jackson, self and well styled the Patriarch of the Pillarites. It was also in this year that Mr. George Seatree became a devotee, and for the next ten years he guided many parties to the shrine on the summit.

An interesting point to note at this juncture is the fact, called attention to by Mr. Seatree, that hitherto the climbing had been done ropeless; and this is probably the reason why there was not a great deal of variation in the quality of the routes taken in the first fifty years. One can, therefore, understand his surprise at Robinson carrying a rope when they first met in the eighties.

And now, with the advent of that prince of pioneers, Mr. W. P. Haskett-Smith, a change came over the scene, and following the general new developments in rock climbing, more difficult routes were worked out.

Messrs. J. W. Robinson (a name particularly associated with Pillar), W. C. Slingsby, and G. Hastings, all assisted in the impetus which he gave to this. It was this decade which became memorable in the annals of rock climbing on Pillar Rock because of the long siege laid to the North Climb; for Haskett-Smith, along with his brother Edmund, reached

the Stomach Traverse at least as early as 1884 ; and less than a year after the first ascent of the climb in 1891, G. A. Solly led a party up it, and showed that the descent into Savage Gully could be avoided by the Hand Traverse, a fact further emphasised by J. Collier's successful attack on the Nose about twelve months later.

Exploration of the Rock kept pace with that on other crags in the Lake District, and 1899 and 1901 saw the fall of Walker's Gully and Savage Gully respectively, a fitting culmination to the gully epoch of the sport. The successful attack on the New West Climb by the brothers Abraham in 1901 recalled the further possibilities of this almost forgotten face, but a more significant sign of the times (the development of modern rock climbing) was the magnificent victory over the North West angle of the Rock in 1906. It was ten years, however, before the West Face was thought of again, when the South West Climb paved the way in 1911 for the successful attacks on it in 1919 and 1920 ; although curiously enough, the men who showed the possibilities of this side in 1901, went to the North East for their next successful attack on the Stone in 1912.

Before closing this brief history there is one name in addition to those already given that I should like to mention. That Pillar Rock should have made an appeal to L. J. Oppenheimer was an inevitable reaction between such a striking natural object and a man of his artistic temperament. It was the lodestone of his wanderings in the Lake District, and though he did not achieve any of the greatness associated with being the leader of a first ascent, it was mainly due to his optimism that Savage Gully and the North West Climb were done.

### THE APPROACHES.

As a climbing ground, Pillar Rock is accessible from Ennerdale, Wasdale, Buttermere, and Borrowdale. Either the 1 inch Ordnance Map, England and Wales, Sheet 12, or the 1 inch Bartholomew's "Keswick, Ullswater, &c." Map will be of much service in this connection.

**Ennerdale.**—This valley offers very little in the way of accommodation for visitors. The Angler's Inn, at the foot



of Ennerdale Lake, is nearly six miles away. Gillerthwaite, a mile and a quarter above the head of the lake, is the nearest farmhouse. The River Liza can be crossed by a new footbridge about half-an-hour's walk from the farm, just before reaching a wooden hut and sheepfold. It would be as well to begin to ascend the fellside at once, taking a slightly diagonal route towards the left until an opening in the lower crags presents itself. The beck which is met here, is formed by the two streams flowing from Great Doup and the West Waterfall respectively. From the Liza to the foot of the Rock involves a rise of about twelve hundred feet.

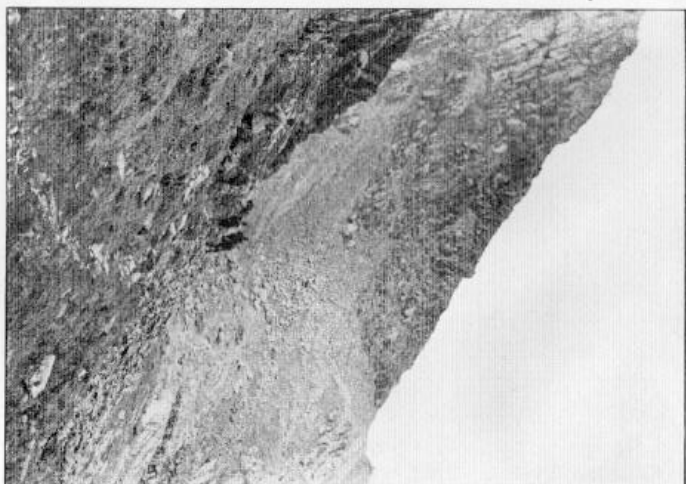
**Wasdale.**—This being the most popular of our Lakeland climbing centres, the majority of climbers will make it their headquarters. The best route—about two to two and a half hours' walking—is along the well-defined track up the hanging valley of Mosedale, one of the most mysterious of our dales. Where the path bifurcates, take the one to the right which goes up by Gatherstone Beck. The prominent mound surmounted immediately after crossing the footbridge is known as Gatherstone Head, beyond which the path gradually rises up to Black Sail Pass. It is not necessary to go to the summit of the Pass as the slope of Looking Stead can be ascended by turning to the left of an outcrop of rock where the path becomes stony. Once the ridge is gained, and shortly after it begins to rise up to Pillar Mountain, a cairn will be seen on the right, indicating the start of the High Level Route. A shorter but more arduous route direct to this point can be made by taking a slanting course across the fellside just after leaving Gatherstone Head.

There are two alternatives from the cairn mentioned, (a) by the High Level Route, and (b) up the main ridge of Pillar Mountain.

The High Level Route, with its well-marked track across the breast of the mountain, is most fascinating. The delight of its undulating path, first skirting Green Cove, then rising over ridges and dipping into further coves, culminates in the surprising view of Pillar Rock as seen from Robinson's Cairn. The path is just as enduring a memorial to John Wilson Robinson (its chief discoverer) as the cairn itself.



*Photo by*  
ENNERDALE FROM GABLE CRAG,  
*H. Coates.*



*Photo by*  
THE HIGH LEVEL ROUTE  
NEAR HIND COVE,  
*H. Coates.*

The other route (b) continues up to the summit of the mountain itself, whence a descent, practically due north, is made over rough ground for something like 400 feet. It is not altogether necessary to ascend to the top of the mountain, as some distance below, near where the wire fence reaches almost to the edge of the ridge, a deep cove (Great Doup) is seen on the right. This spot can also be identified by a cairn. Descend the cove by an intermittent path which works to the left past the memorial to the late Rev. James Jackson, and after a few ups and downs, including the descent of a little stone shoot, the Rock soon comes into view.

Still another route from Wasdale is by Windy Gap (Wind Yat). Instead of turning to the right up Gatherstone Beck, take the path to the left, and keep straight ahead to a nick in the ridge of the mountain in front, taking care to avoid going up the main combe (Blackern Head) of Mosedale to the left. On reaching the Gap, two ways of approach offer themselves. The first is up the ridge on the right to the top of Pillar Fell, whence the northerly descent, already referred to, brings one to Jordan Gap on the south side of the Rock. The other way is to descend slightly into Windy Gap Cove, which is on the Ennerdale side, and then contour the screestrewn slope of the fellside to the right until the West Cove is reached, the climber finding himself conveniently above the Waterfall and well situated for the West Face Routes. It should be noted that the approach by Windy Gap is very laborious, the ground being rough up to the Gap and beyond it.

**Buttermere.**—Buttermere is almost, if not quite as handy, as Wasdale. The obvious way is by Scarf Gap, but instead of descending into Ennerdale by the well known track, it will save time to leave the latter soon after crossing the col and take a line across a green tongue to the right, thence fording the Liza and traversing the slopes of Pillar Fell upward toward the opening in the crags mentioned under the heading of "Ennerdale." Of course, it is possible to reach the beginning of the High Level Route either by the usual path to Black Sail, or by the more direct ascent up Green Cove.

**Borrowdale.** Borrowdale is the most distant centre. If the climber is staying at Seathwaite, a good route to take would be by Sour Milk Ghyll to the top of Gillercombe. After crossing the ridge, either a long descent into Ennerdale, or alternatively a traverse over very rough ground across the slopes of Green Gable, Great Gable, and Kirkfell, would ultimately lead to the High Level Route. Should the climber be staying at Seatoller, however, the nearest way would be via Honister Hause, the Drum House, then to the left across the flats below Brandreth until a small combe affords an easy descent into Ennerdale, almost opposite the foot of Black Sail Pass.

### TOPOGRAPHICAL.

Pillar Rock, as its name indicates, is a shapely crag, and is practically conical in appearance. Strictly speaking there are two cones stuck together, one higher than the other, termed High Man and Low Man respectively. In plan it runs longitudinally north and south at right angles to Pillar Mountain, on the north slope of which it lies.

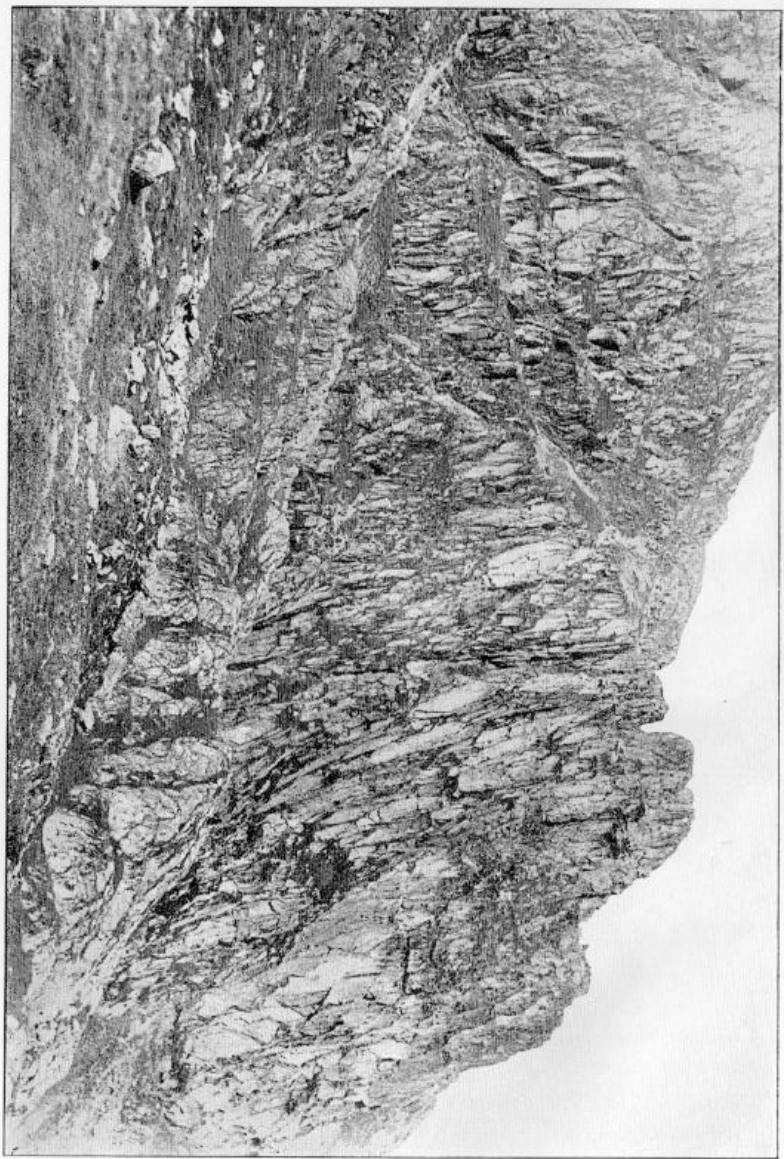
The south side is short and forms one side of Jordan Gap. This gap cuts Pillar off from Pisgah, which is part of the main mass. The north side is long and sloping, extending in an easy ridge from High Man to Low Man, thence dropping over the steep north cliff of the latter, and terminating in the Green Ledge, although traces of this mighty excrescence can be seen lower down the hillside in the form of a few outcrops.

The east side is flanked by the Shamrock (which is in turn bounded by Pillar Cove, better known as Great Doup) and the deep cleft between the two is Walker's Gully.

On the west side, Low Man is cut off from the fell side by the Waterfall, but the feet of High Man are washed by the scree from a little gully running up to the south side behind Pisgah.

As mentioned previously, the High Level Route being the most popular approach, it will be as well to indicate the way to the above places from this direction.





*Photo by*

SHAMROCK AND THE PILLAR ROCK FROM ROBINSON'S CAIRN.

*J. H. Doughly.*

It will be remembered that the climber was taken along this and left at Robinson's Cairn. If the weather is clear all the topography given will be seen from there except that of the west side which, of course, is hidden from view. One of the first things to be noticed, apart from the towering mass of Pillar, is the Sham Rock, which lies to the left and partly hides High Man. The notch on the left of High Man is Jordan Gap; whilst, splitting the upper part of High Man itself, is a cleft, known as the Great Chimney, with a large sloping ledge on its right, similar to *the Slab*. The dividing line between High Man and Low Man is Savage Gully, with Walker's Gully running at an angle to it behind the Shamrock, but not being visible from this point.

Coming back to the Shamrock, it will be noticed that this is split in two by a wide gully (Shamrock Gully) the top of which ends just above an amphitheatre, to be referred to shortly. On the right of the gully is Shamrock Buttress, conspicuous with its diamond-shaped wall about half way up. The direction of the SHAMROCK TRAVERSE can be seen plainly running across a large sloping scree-strewn ledge on the top of the Shamrock. This is the easiest way, from the east, to Jordan Gap and the short climbs on the east face of High Man. To reach the Traverse, go along the path to the left into Great Doup, keeping about the same level, then ascend this a little until a short scree shoot is seen on the right. This is the start of the Traverse. The track will take one along over the broad terrace mentioned previously until it stops short at the top of an amphitheatre. This amphitheatre acts as a sort of funnel to the top of Walker's Gully and catches all the scree falling from the slopes of Pillar Mountain immediately above. A nearer view is now obtained of the east side of High Man, especially of the East Jordan Gully which runs up into the Gap, and of the prominent SLAB near its foot, which is the key to the easiest route to High Man. The descent into the amphitheatre from the Traverse is somewhat awkward. The track continues across the amphitheatre into EAST JORDAN GULLY, a very easy climb with only one short pitch in it, and that of the chockstone variety. It should be remembered, too, that it is also possible to take an

easy way over to the west side of the rock via this Traverse. All that one has to do is to climb up a little out of the amphitheatre, about half way across, whence the back of Pisgah is reached at the top of the little gully mentioned as running up from the west side.

It should also be noted that it is possible, by easy scrambling, to reach the top of Low Man from the Shamrock Traverse. The scree of the amphitheatre is descended on the left hand side (looking down) until one comes to the foot of the deep cleft (Great Chimney). A little ridge, which at one time had a wall on it, leading down to the top of Walker's Gully, is immediately in front; this is crossed, and easy ledges at the same level lead into Stony Gully (upper part of Savage Gully) a scramble up which soon brings one to Low Man. The OLD WALL ROUTE, one of the earliest variations of the climbing on Pillar, goes by this way, except that shortly before reaching Stony Gully a divergence is made to a wide square chimney, about twenty-five feet in height, which is seen in a corner up on the left. This chimney is ascended, and from the top a junction is made with the ordinary ridge route from Low Man to High Man, which constitutes the finish of the Old West Climb.

To reach the north and west sides of the rock from Robinson's Cairn, the best way, instead of making a bee line to the GREEN LEDGE, i.e. by descending the grass slope straight-away, is to follow the same path as the one to the Shamrock Traverse, but before reaching the scree of the Great Doup take a turn toward the right over the hummocks in front until the same scree-slope is reached lower down. A descending path will take one across this, past the foot of the Shamrock, Walker's Gully, and other climbs hereabouts, and on to the Green Ledge. The latter runs right across the foot of the North Face, and a short descent at the end of it brings one to the Waterfall. It is possible to avoid crossing this by climbing up the rocks which bound it on the left hand side; but this is a difficult way and demands some skill in climbing.

At first appearance the way across the waterfall looks the harder of the two, but it is a simple matter to reach the bed

of the stream, and though the short climb out on the opposite side demands considerable care, it is soon accomplished ; after which all that one has to do is to ascend easy ground until a more commanding view of the West Face can be obtained.

Unlike the east side, whose innumerable ledges and terraces catch the light from above and cast many shadows, the West Face, as a picture, is flat and stark, and assumes a fiercer aspect, though the profile has a certain amount of grace. For, while the angle of Low Man is akin to that of the view from the east, the outline changes into a beautiful parabolic curve from its summit to that of High Man. Jordan Gap, too, is more impressive, whilst Pisgah itself has a toothed appearance, like that of some snarling beast.

Despite the general flat appearance of this face, it will be noticed that where the left wing of High Man rests on Low Man, the rock becomes more broken up and forms an easy rake to the latter. This is known as the OLD WEST ROUTE. To those who wish to reach High Man by this route, there should be no great difficulty in locating it and following its course to Low Man. From there the way goes up the main ridge on the right by a series of ledges, corners, and short chimneys of moderate quality. The climb is well scratched throughout. It has a variation from Low Man, and SLINGSBY'S CRACK may be used instead. This crack, which is only short and of moderate difficulty, starts a few yards to the right of the ordinary route and somewhat enhances the merit of the climb.

The most striking feature of this side, however, is a deep cleft (West Jordan Gully) which, cutting off High Man from Pisgah on its right, seems endeavouring to carve a way through to East Jordan Gully on the other side. One has often contemplated what the isolation of the Rock would be like if the mass of jammed boulders and earth in Jordan Gap should collapse, and thus lengthen the short climbs on the south side by at least one hundred feet.

It will be noticed, too, that high up on the right of Pisgah is a little gully. This provides an easy way to the east side. A mighty rock fall took place here in the summer of 1920.



Thousands of tons of rock fell and scoured the west scree to such an extent as to lay bare a tiny feeder of the waterfall which must have been buried under more than a foot of debris.

Owing to the flatness, already referred to, the characteristics of the climbing on the West Face are different from those on the others. Whereas, in the main you have gullies and chimneys on the latter, here the climbs are chiefly composed of slabs and walls, and in consequence they are cleaner, if more exposed.

### THE CLIMBS.

It will be noticed that the order in which the climbs have been described is the one of encircling the Rock, left to right, starting on the south side and working back to the same point East, North, and West. A classified list of the climbs is also given so that ready reference can be made to any climb of the difficulty required.

Particular attention is drawn to the following points:—

The grading of the climbs in difficulty refers to ascents, and to dry weather conditions.

The pitches have been described in the simplest possible terms, and any attempt to interfere with the climber's own technique in the art has been avoided as much as possible. In cases where this rule has been departed from, the reason lies more in the fact that such information was the only possible way of describing the pitch, or that in some instances, even the most expert of climbers likes to know "what is round the corner."

The amount of rope given as required by the leader is net, i.e., the length between him and the second man, leaving out of account waist length. The leader is further advised not to stint himself of rope, especially on the more severe climbs. The length given for each pitch is not always the distance between start and finish, but indicates in each case the actual length of climbing involved. The same applies to the total length of climbs as given. Length

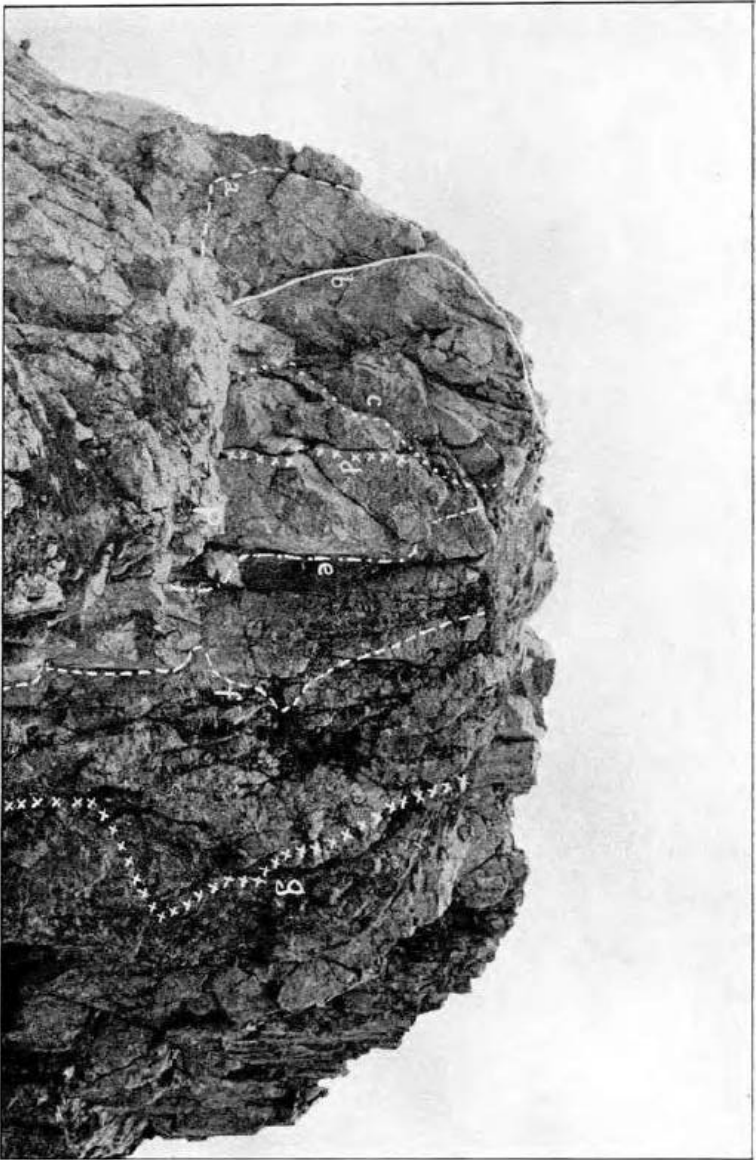


Photo by

SOUTH FACE OF HIGH MAN.

H. Coates.

- a.—FAR WEST JORDAN CLIMB.
- b.—WEST JORDAN CRACK.
- c.—WEST JORDAN CLIMB.
- d.—JORDAN BASTION.
- e.—CENTRAL JORDAN CLIMB.
- f.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- g.—EAST JORDAN WALL.
- h.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- i.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- j.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- k.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- l.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- m.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- n.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- o.—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.
- p.—PISGAH.

of pitches and climbs (except the shortest in each case) are given to the nearest five feet and twenty-five feet respectively.

The terms "left" and "right," except where otherwise stated, mean as the climber is facing his climb.

The angle of a glaxis is such that it can be walked up; a slab is steeper; whilst a wall is nearly vertical and may overhang. The slopes are approximately—below 30°, between 30° and 75°, above 75°.

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## PILLAR ROCK.

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### SOUTH SIDE (Jordan Gap).

**Central Jordan Climb**—55 feet; difficult; any number of climbers; leader needs 35 feet of rope. The descent furnishes a quick route off the Rock. Starts immediately to the right of the highest part of the Gap.

- (1) 25 feet. A corner with a crack in it leads to a big sloping ledge.
- (2) 30 feet. A crack starts from the left-hand corner of the ledge and is climbed with the left leg in, the wall on the right being used for footholds. From the top of the crack a low wall leads to High Man.

### Climbs to the left of Central Jordan Climb.

**Jordan Bastion**.—50 feet; severe. A climb of one pitch which entails a big strain on the arms. Situated between the Central and West Jordan Climbs.

- (1) 50 feet. The sloping stance on the top or a bulge about fifteen feet up, and below a crack, is best tackled from the right. The crack is the most difficult section, and it is a relief to step out on to the left of a block at the top. Another short crack leads to the top of Jordan Flake.

**West Jordan Climb.**—50 feet ; difficult. Starts immediately to the left of the narrow part of the Gap.

- (1) 50 feet. A wall with an awkward take-off leads to a ledge ten feet up. A shallow scoop is succeeded by a difficult crack on the right which leads to the top of the flake ; the Central Jordan Climb is joined here.

**West Jordan Crack.**—80 feet ; difficult ; number immaterial. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. Starts from a poised block immediately to the left of West Jordan Climb.

- (1) 15 feet. A delicate movement to the left across the bulging rock, with a good hold for the right hand high up, finishes at a grassy corner.
- (2) 35 feet. A short slab followed by a steep crack.
- (3) 30 feet. Easy scrambling to High Man.

**Far West Jordan Climb.**—50 feet ; difficult ; number immaterial. Leader needs 40 feet of rope.

- (1) 15 feet. The first pitch is identical with that of West Jordan Crack.
- (2) 35 feet. A short slab on the left leads to a tiny pinnacle. Above this a narrow crack is entered and the route shortly rejoins West Jordan Crack.

**Climbs to the right of Central Jordan Climb.**

**East Jordan Climb.**—100 feet ; severe ; any number. Leader needs 45 feet of rope. Starts at the chockstone in East Jordan Gully.

- (1) 20 feet. Traverse to the right, then up to a grassy ledge.
- (2) 35 feet. An obtuse corner with incipient crack leading to the broad ledge mentioned in the description of Central Jordan Climb.
- (3) 40 feet. An awkward step to the right, followed by a mossy wall leading to a grassy slope, whence the route works to the left in the direction of High Man.

N.B.—The last pitch coincides in part with Mr. Haskett-Smith's original East Jordan Climb. He reached the

big ledge by the usual route from the Gap, and worked more to the right above the awkward step.

**East Jordan Wall.**—80 feet ; exceptionally severe, steep and exposed. Doubtful looking rock in the upper portion. Any number. Leader needs 80 feet of rope. Starts midway between East Jordan and the Slab and Notch Climbs.

- (1) 10 feet. A shallow corner of about ten feet is climbed to a juniper ledge. Belay a few feet higher up.
- (2) 70 feet. A rather open mossy groove is climbed to a small niche 30 feet up, where a good rest can be taken. The route now trends to the right to doubtful holds. A shallow depression is ascended for a few feet and is then quitted on the left. The climbing is very exposed hereabouts but the finish is near at hand.

#### On Pisgah.

**Pisgah from Jordan Gap.**—20 feet ; difficult ; severe if wet.

20 feet. Start from the top of a big block just opposite the Central Jordan Climb. By the aid of a small foothold a long stride is made to a thin crack on the right. A groove is then entered with rather poor holds. A good hold, however, is found for the finish.

**East Pisgah Chimneys.**—There are two chimneys on the east side of Pisgah, neither of which is of much interest, the climbing being short and of moderate quality.

The **LEFT HAND CHIMNEY** is well defined and is situated just to the right of the point where the Shamrock Traverse is left to reach the back of Pisgah. It is rather a deep and wide cleft, and its first pitch of 25 feet is overcome by bridging and then climbing up the right wall. A shorter pitch follows.

The **RIGHT HAND CHIMNEY** is a few feet nearer East Jordan Gully, and is not so well defined. Grassy ledges are ascended until a shallow chimney of 25 feet brings one to the top of Pisgah. This is the more awkward of the two chimneys.

**EAST SIDE OF HIGH MAN.**

**Slab and Notch Climb.**—125 feet; easy; any number. Leader needs 35 feet of rope. Starts opposite the point where the Shamrock Traverse enters East Jordan Gully.

- (1) 45 feet. A horizontal path followed by a couple of four-foot rises leads across the foot of the Slab to a corner below the Notch. The path is reached either by climbing an eight foot crack on the right, or by scrambling up on the left and working down the slab. Also a short upward traverse to the right reaches the path.
  - (2)\* 25 feet. A corner with good holds finishes at the Notch. The same point can be reached by a variation on the left.
  - (3) 30 feet. An easy ledge to the right, followed by an easy staircase.
  - (4) 25 feet. Another ledge and staircase.
- A short slab with a traverse to the right, finishes in a grassy gully. The latter goes to High Man.

**\*Variation : "The Easy Way."**—Instead of climbing up to the Notch, the second pitch can be left about twelve feet above the level of the path. At this point a sensational looking but perfectly safe and easy traverse to the right, leads one round the big projecting nose below the Notch. Rock ledges trending downwards give on to a grassy path; and finally (about thirty-five feet from the start of the traverse) a short descent and a step round the corner lands one in the easy upper part of the Great Chimney (q.v.). This route to High Man constitutes the so-called Easy Way, probably the first route made on the East side (see "Historical").

**Pendlebury Traverse.**—65 feet; moderate; any number. Leader needs 30 feet of rope. Starts at the Notch.

- (1) 25 feet. A grass ledge on the left sloping up to a short chimney.
- (2) 20 feet. Climb over or round a block at the top of the chimney on to a moderate upward traverse, using parallel cracks for hands and feet.

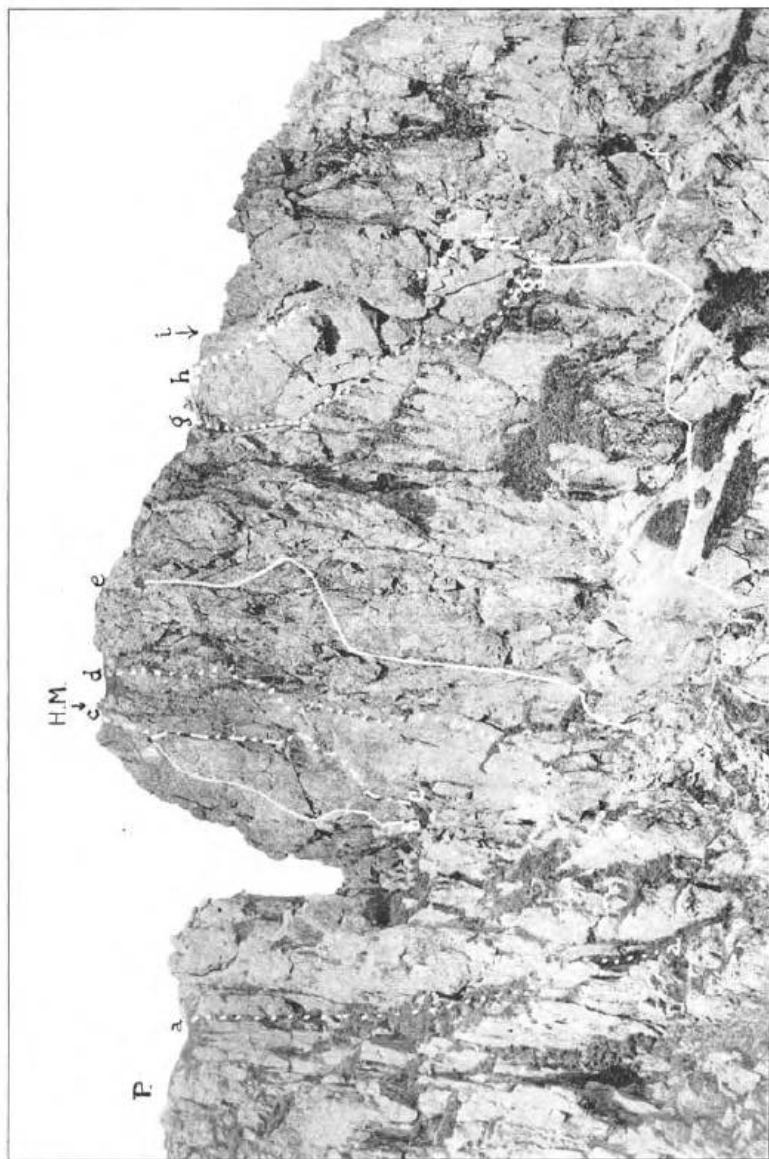


Photo by

EAST FACE OF HIGH MAN.

*J. H. Doughty.*  
 a—EAST PISGAH CHIMNEY (RIGHT). b—JORDAN BASTION. c—CENTRAL JORDAN CLIMB. d—EAST JORDAN CLIMB.  
 e—EAST JORDAN WALL. f.—SLAB AND NOTCH CLIMB. g.—SLAB AND NOTCH "EASY WAY." h—PENDLEBURY  
 TRAVERSE. h—THE ARÊTE. i—TOP OF GREAT CHIMNEY. P—PISGAH. H.M.—HIGH MAN. N.—THE NOTCH.

- (3) 20 feet. A chimney, climbed by facing the right wall.

**The Arête.**—65 feet; moderate; number immaterial. Leader needs 35 feet of rope. Best taken in combination with the Curtain, the two forming a pleasant climb of moderate length. Starts on a ledge immediately beyond the NOTCH.

- (1) 15 feet. A corner, slightly overhanging at the start; good holds.  
 (2) 30 feet. An easy rock-ridge with a somewhat difficult finish.  
 (3) 20 feet. A sharp arête with level top, leading to High Man.

**The Curtain.**—100 feet; rather difficult; number immaterial. Leader needs 35 feet of rope. The climb runs up to the left of the Great Chimney, the start being marked by a prominent cairn on a broad grassy ledge.

- (1) 30 feet. A wall with good holds but some loose rock.  
 (2) 30 feet. A difficult crack starting from a poised block on the right.  
 (3) 50 feet. A staircase, steep at the beginning, succeeded by an easy arête which finishes on the Ledge below the NOTCH. Can be done in two pitches.

By climbing round to the left and up to the NOTCH the ridge can be regained and followed to the summit. This latter portion is usually reckoned as a separate climb, (see: THE ARÊTE).

**The Great Chimney.**—80 feet; difficult; any number. Leader needs 35 feet of rope. Middle section usually wet. This is the prominent cleft which splits the East Face, running down from High Man to nearly the top of Walker's Gully.

- (1) 20 feet. Two platforms on the left are climbed.  
 (2) 30 feet. A steep and difficult chimney.  
 (3) 30 feet. A wide grassy chimney.

At this point the climb proper finishes. A long grassy slope known as the "Steep Grass" leads to a short chimney pitch, which constitutes the finish to the "Easy Way," (see Slab and Notch Climb).



**NORTH EAST SIDE OF HIGH MAN.**

Perhaps it is not generally known that this face can be traversed at a higher level than the Old Wall Route (see Topography). Well up the recess leading to the foot of the Great Chimney an easy crack will be seen on the right. This leads to a broad ledge which has some large blocks resting on it.

Just beyond this is the foot of the North East Chimney, whilst about 50 feet further on the Square Chimney on the Old Wall Route is reached.

**North East Chimney.**—50 feet ; difficult.

- (1) 25 feet. A wide V chimney. The crack in the V is utilised for 15 feet, after which a ledge on the right enables one to grasp a protruding chockstone at the top of the pitch.

It will be noticed that one is now on the conspicuous heather covered slabs to the right of the Steep Grass of the Great Chimney, up which an easy exit can be made.

- (2) 25 feet. At the top of the slab on the right an incipient chimney can be climbed. Its lower portion contains a chockstone which requires a very strenuous pull to surmount. The rest is comparatively easy. The climb finishes on the ridge of the Old West Route. An alternative crack some feet away on the left can be taken, but it is severe.

**North East Arête.**—50 feet ; difficult. Starts on the right wall of the first pitch of the North East Chimney.

- (1) 50 feet. A crack, slanting up to the right, leads to a series of awkward ledges, which end on the ridge a little below the finish of the above climb.

**EAST SIDE OF THE SHAMROCK.**

**Shamrock Gully.**—550 feet ; any number. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. This gully, although of considerable length, offers very little real climbing, the greater portion of it being composed of grass, loose earth, and shifting scree.

A scramble up scree and grass for 250 feet leads to the foot of the first pitch—15 feet high. This can be climbed on the left (severe) or turned by taking to the buttress on the right, but considerably lower down. 150 feet farther up is the Great Pitch—25 feet. Either the right or left hand route is very severe, strenuous, and unpleasant, and the top of the pitch is covered with loose stones. The grassy bed of the gully now runs to a saddle about 100 feet higher.

**Shamrock Buttress.**—500 feet; Route 1 is moderate; Route 2 very difficult; two to five climbers. Leader needs 40 feet of rope (60 feet for Route 2). Route 2 offers the best climbing, Route 1 being broken up and grassy. Starts immediately to the right of Shamrock Gully.

- (1) An easy wide grassy chimney is climbed for 80 feet, or easy rocks on the left may be taken.
- (2) 35 feet. A rib on the right of the chimney.
- (3) 30 feet. The same rib is continued.
- (4) 110 feet of easier rock and grassy ledges ending on a large bilberry covered platform.

From here there are two alternatives :—

**Route 1—**

- (5) 40 feet. Skirt, to the right, the buttress in front and round the base of a diamond-shaped vertical wall (conspicuous from the foot of the crags) to the foot of a narrow chimney crowned with grass.
- (6) 20 feet. Chimney.
- (7) 15 feet. Coarse grass leads to a cave formed by a big capstone and climbed on the left.
- (8) 30 feet. A short ridge on the right finishing up a 15 foot crack.
- (9) 60 feet. A walk up a shallow grassy gully.
- (10) 20 feet. Either a difficult crack on the right, or an easy through route.
- 11) 30 feet. An easy scramble to the right.

- (12) 40 feet. A buttress ascended on its right face, and finishing on the ridge, which leads to a prominent perched block (the "Tea-table").

**Route 2—**

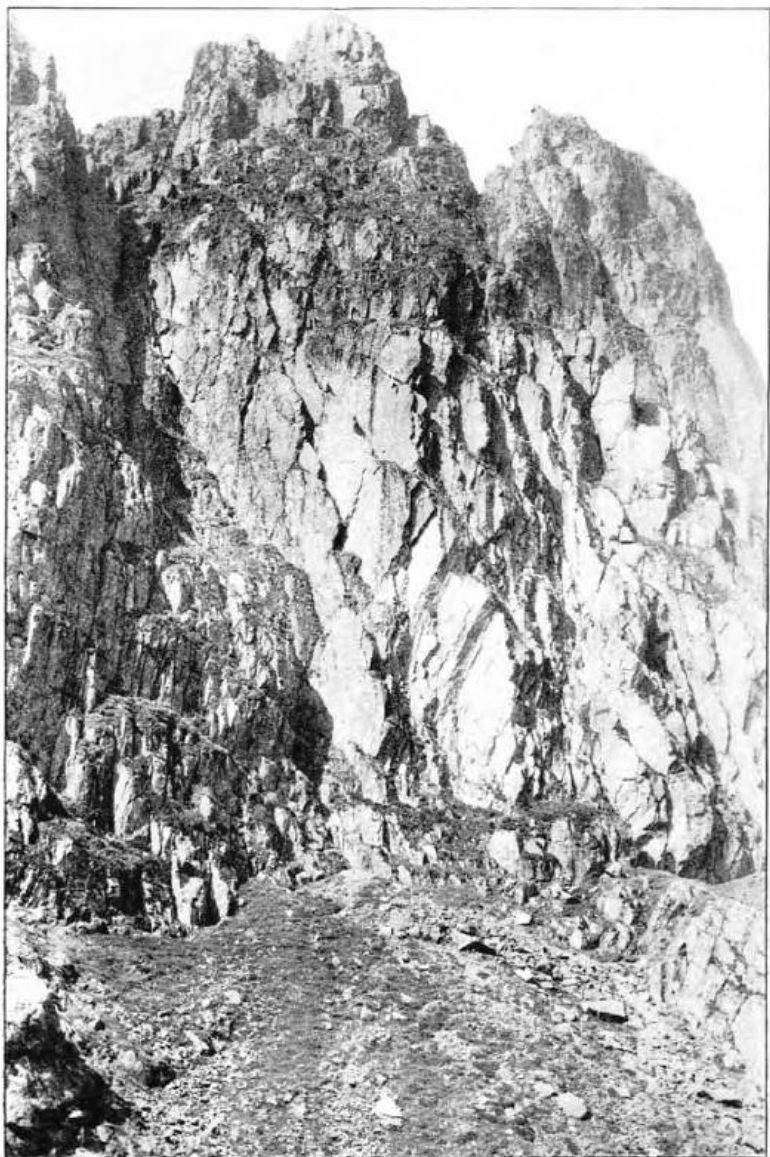
- (5) 50 feet. From the bilberry ledge climb the buttress straight ahead and traverse into the gully. The diamond-shaped wall is now on the right.
- (6) 30 feet. A mossy wall with small holds, bordering on the severe in wet weather.
- (7) 40 feet. A series of ledges leading along the ridge.
- (8) 30 feet. A grassy walk into the gully, arriving about fifteen feet above the top of the Great Pitch of Shamrock Gully.
- (9)\* 50 feet. Enter a dark recess and climb out by a short movement to the right. Then a steep wall is ascended to a cave, using a crack with doubtful chocks en route. Room for two here.
- (10) 10 feet. Climb out of the cave—facing right—to a roomy corner with good belays.
- (11) 25 feet. Climb from the corner to a ledge on the right, then up a short slab to a grassy corner, which leads to the final ridge mentioned in Route 1.

**\*VARIATION.**

Some yards higher up the gully a narrow chimney is seen fifteen feet up on the right wall. This is entered with difficulty, and best climbed facing left: it ends on a ledge about level with the cave mentioned above. The climb goes straight up to a ledge on the left. A large detached block facilitates the finish and Route 2 is joined near the top.

**NORTH SIDE OF THE SHAMROCK.**

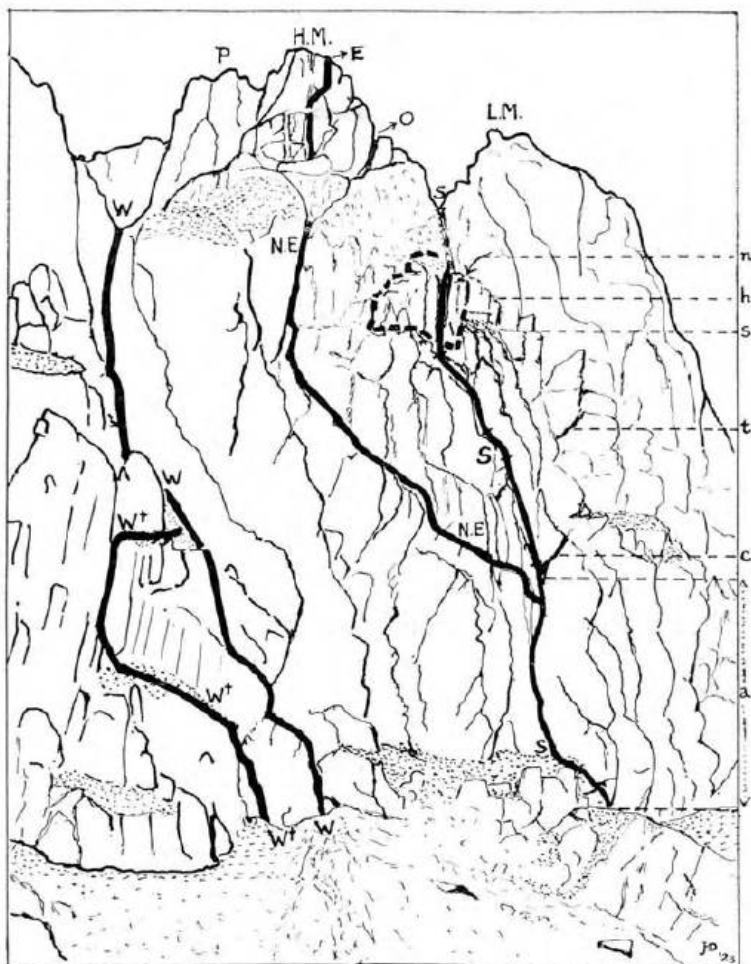
**The Shamrock Chimneys.**—500 feet; very difficult; any number. Leader needs 45 feet of rope. Not a very pleasant



*Photo by*

*J. H. Doughty.*

PILLAR ROCK FROM THE NORTH EAST.



P.—PISGAH. H.M. HIGH MAN. E.—NORTH EAST CHIMNEY.  
 L.M.—LOW MAN. O.—SQUARE CHIMNEY ON OLD WALL ROUTE.  
 W. & W.t —WALKER'S GULLY (TWO ROUTES). N.E.— NORTH EAST  
 CLIMB. S.— SAVAGE GULLY. NORTH CLIMB (MAIN FEATURES): FIRST  
 PART OF NORTH CLIMB AND SAVAGE GULLY. c.—TWISTING CHIMNEY.  
 t.—STOMACH TRAVERSE. s.—SPLIT BLOCKS. h.—HAND TRAVERSE  
 n.—NOSE. - - - - SECOND ALTERNATIVE TO LAST PITCH.

climb. To the right of the Shamrock Buttress, beyond a mass of overhanging rock, a grassy bay will be noticed. After most unpleasant scrambling of 200 feet up steep grass, two chimneys, some distance apart, are seen, the most conspicuous being the one on the right. The start of the climb, however, is up that on the left.

- (1) 40 feet. A narrow chimney with chockstones at the bottom ; break out on the left for the finish.
- (2) 25 feet. A short slab on the left followed by a chimney on the right, with grassy holds for the finish.
- (3) 30 feet. The same chimney. Climb up the chockstones (it is possible for the leader to run his rope behind the last chockstone for safety, should he prefer this). Face right when tackling the V ahead ; then, when in it, face about and climb up the left wall until a small cave can be entered.
- (4) 30 feet. Break out of the chimney on the right to avoid the grassy part of it ahead.
- (5) 20 feet. A walk up grass.
- (6) 30 feet. A V chimney followed by a grassy walk.

The remainder of the climb follows Route 1 of Shamrock Buttress, up the shallow grassy gully, and so on.

**Walker's Gully.**—400 feet ; severe—last pitch very severe. Three or four climbers. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. A superb climb. Between the Shamrock and the North East ridge of Pillar.

- (1) 50 feet. Easy pitch. A short chimney and scree to the foot of a high chimney (green).
- (2) 40 feet. To attain a sloping terrace on the right, the wall is ascended on holds which are good till near the finish. An easier alternative to this can be made lower down, as the terrace slopes down to within a few feet of the bed of the ghyll.

It is said that the chimney direct is also feasible.

- (3) 35 feet. An exposed trough with very poor holds is climbed until it is possible to step across on to the first chockstone in the chimney. Another chockstone just above is easily surmounted.
- (4) 100 feet. Simple scrambling up the bed of the gully.
- (5) 30 feet. A chimney; climb outside it on the left-hand edge for the first few feet until it can be entered more easily, when it leads to a cave, usually wet.
- (6) 25 feet. Climb up behind and then over a chockstone; then bridge the gully, which is narrow here, until a sloping chockstone is reached; a good handhold on the right side of it is found to be of great value. An upper chockstone, however, still makes it very awkward to attain a standing position, but once this is done a good hold on the top of this chockstone brings one's difficulties to an end.
- (7) 30 feet. A short scree slope and an easy pitch leads to a cave with a through route.
- (8) 15 feet. "Through Route." An arduous and energy wasting job. See that both arms are through the hole before the head. The leader should have no compunction about receiving assistance from below. An alternative route, providing finer climbing and demanding greater technique, can be made outside the cave, up the left wall. A narrow sloping ledge running up to the chockstone is difficult to attain. A small crack for the fingers at the back of the ledge is found most valuable. To climb along the ledge to the top of the cave is very exacting.
- (9) 40 feet. An easy through route or a staircase on the right wall brings one to two big boulders blocking the gully. The last can be climbed either on the right or left.
- (10) 20 feet. More large chockstones are encountered until a cave below the final pitch is arrived at.
- (11) 30 feet. The right wall is ascended on sloping holds until a recess under the final capstone is reached. The methods of overcoming the last few feet will differ. A tall man

with the great advantage of height, will adopt the easier device and back up with his back on the left wall. A short man, however, will have to adopt the more severe and exposed task of continuing up the right wall. To him, this last few feet will be the most exacting of the whole climb; for to get his head from under the capstone and then use a poor sloping hold for the right hand, until a better one can be reached higher up, will tax his physical powers to the uttermost.

**Alternative Start.** Route taken at the first ascent.

Starts some yards to the left of the foot of the gully.

- (1) 50 feet. Grassy ledges.
- (2) 60 feet. Traverse to the left to a corner.
- (3) 10 feet. Traverse again to the left across a wall to the foot of a narrow chimney.
- (4) 50 feet. The chimney, which has excellent holds, is now climbed.
- (5) 120 feet. A walk over a grassy terrace to the right, then upwards until the fifth pitch (30 feet) of the direct route is reached.

**Additional Finish to Walker's Gully.**—200 feet; fairly difficult; any number. Leader needs 35 feet of rope. For those who have not already lost interest in the day's climbing after having survived the last pitch of this gully, there is an additional bit of climbing which starts only a few yards away. The climb runs up the ridge on the left; its start is reached by crossing over the top of the capstone.

- (1) 30 feet. A moderately difficult crack is climbed to a block on the ridge. Belay.
- (2) 30 feet. A steep wall is now ascended. By the aid of good holds, a platform, identified by a small pile of stones, is reached on the right. Belay.
- (3) 25 feet. Climb on to a ledge on the right, in order to get on to a ridge on the left, as this provides the best climbing hereabouts. Platform and belay.

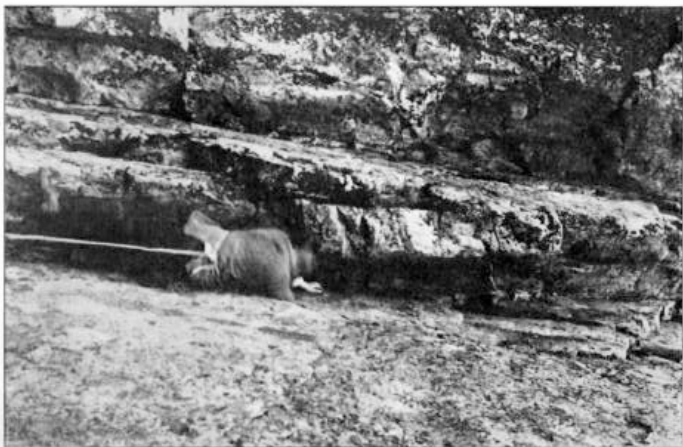


- (4) 20 feet. Keep straight up on rocks at an easy angle. Cairn.  
 N.B.—An alternative to this pitch, though rather out of the line of ascent, can be made up a steep and severe slab 35 feet long, starting below on the left.
- (5) 100 feet. Easy scrambling finishing near the "Tea-table" at the top of Shamrock Buttress.

### NORTH SIDE OF LOW MAN.

**North East Climb.**—300 feet; very difficult; number immaterial, but if only two, both should be capable of leading. Leader needs 45 feet of rope. Starts from a ledge in Savage Gully at the end of the third pitch of the North Climb.

- (1) 30 feet. Climb about six feet up the gully, then traverse for ten feet across a rib on the left to a small stance. A ten foot chimney leads to another stance with a belay some feet above.
- (2) 25 feet. Swing on the hands over a rib to the left on to a slab; then continue in the same direction to grassy terraces. Belay.
- (3) 35 feet. A short chimney leads to a longer one with a difficult finish.
- (4) 40 feet. A short slab on the left, followed by a grassy walk leading to a long V groove on the wall of Walker's Gully.
- (5) 40 feet. The Groove--eases after the first few feet.
- (6) 40 feet. Continue up the Groove to a corner with a belay.
- (7) 20 feet. A mossy wall on the right, with a nasty finish, leads to a good ledge behind a big block. Perfect belay.
- (8) 20 feet. A vertical chimney with large holds.
- (9) 20 feet. A steep staircase leading to a grassy corner. Belay.
- (10) 50 feet. A steep chimney followed by easy grass ledges. From here a traverse can be made either to the right to Low Man, or to the left to the screes above Walker's Gully.



*Photo by*  
H. Coates.  
SAVAGE GULLY (THE LONG PTCH).



*Photo by*  
J. H. Doughly.  
RIB AND SLAB CLIMB (SECOND PTCH).  
(See page 164).

**Savage Gully.**—350 feet ; very severe ; two to four climbers. Leader needs 90 feet of rope. Probably the most exacting climb throughout on Pillar ; but its reputation for loose rock is quite undeserved. Not advisable under wet conditions.

- (1-4) 130 feet. The first four pitches are comparatively easy, and coincide with those of the North Climb (q.v.).
- (5) 80 feet. From the foot of the Twisting Chimney on the North Climb, the gully rises steeply to the left, and is divided by a fine looking rib. The groove on the right of the rib is ascended for about 40 feet, at this critical point a movement being made into the left groove. The awkward pull up on to a prominent green stance is facilitated by a side handhold in a hidden crack on the left hand side of the rib, just above the green stance. The right groove is again entered, and a little higher the climber finds himself beneath a chockstone ; this can be passed on either side, the left hand route being the harder. Good belay.
- (6) 20 feet. A delicate step up to the left leads to a rock nest. Belay.
- (7) 50 feet. The corner ahead, which contains a narrow crack, is climbed with considerable difficulty. Rounded rocks then lead to the foot of the evil looking final pitch. (An alternative, of somewhat less severity, consists in climbing grassy ledges on the right into another corner, and then traversing back at a higher level. This lengthens the climbing by about 20 feet).
- (8) 60 feet. The chief difficulty lies in surmounting the bulging rock in the first fifteen feet. After this, good holds on the right wall can be used, and the climb soon finishes on a level with the top of the Nose of the North Climb. The remainder of the gully, which is called "Stony Gully," is all scree, with one or two minor pitches, and reaches a point just above Low Man.

N.B.—It is possible to avoid the last pitch by doing the same traverse as the one used when the Nose is avoided on the North Climb by the Savage Gully

variation (q.v.). The crack utilised in the descent into Savage Gully can be seen plainly on the right wall.

**North Climb.**—350 feet ; difficult ; last pitch exceptionally so unless Second Alternative is taken. Three or more climbers. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. A deservedly popular climb. Starts near the easterly end of Green Ledge. The route is well scratched throughout.

- (1) 35 feet. An easy mantelshelf and a short slab lead to a grassy ledge at the foot of Savage Gully, up which the next three pitches continue.
- (2) 30 feet. A rectangular groove (15 feet) with good holds on the left side leads to a recess with big belay.
- (3) 35 feet. A wall on the right, followed by a chimney in the gully.
- (4) 30 feet. An easy staircase. At this point the Savage Gully climb rises very steeply on the left.
- (5) 40 feet. A deep and twisting chimney on the right. It can be done in two pitches if desired.
- (6) 45 feet. A V chimney which can be done in two sections. The upper section should be climbed facing the right wall with the back on the slab.

A short walk of 15 feet brings one to the foot of the next pitch.

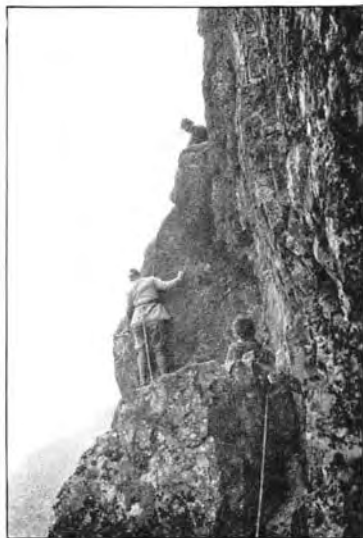
- (7) 30 feet. A narrow chimney, the latter part of which bends over to the right (known as the Stomach Traverse).
- (8) 20 feet. A cave pitch in a corner. Capstone climbed either on the left or right.

A grass walk of 20 feet leads to the Split Blocks.

- (9) 20 feet. These are climbed by the chimneys which split the blocks.
- (10) 20 feet. Traverse now to the left to a ledge below and to the right of the Nose. The first part of this traverse (The "Strid," a matter of only a few feet) can be done either with the face or back to the rocks.



*Photos by*  
TWISTING CHIMNEY—NORTH CLIMB.



*H. Coates.*  
THE NOSE—NORTH CLIMB.



*Photos by*  
COMING OVER THE NOSE—  
NORTH CLIMB.



*J. H. Doughty.*  
THE HAND TRAVERSE—  
NORTH CLIMB.

- (11) 15 feet. **The Nose.** From the corner work out on the projecting flake until standing on its tip. By feeling round the Nose with the left hand, a good side handhold can be secured. A man of medium height can reach a good flat hold for the right hand overhead. By pulling on these and throwing the left knee round to an obvious hold, the Nose can be surmounted without further difficulty. The second man can safeguard the leader whilst he is climbing this pitch by jamming himself in the corner with his foot against the flake, and belaying himself to the rock by wedging his rope in the crack overhead.

FIRST ALTERNATIVE TO THE LAST PITCH.

- (11) 25 feet. **THE HAND TRAVERSE.** From the right hand end of the ledge below the Nose, ascend the steep wall for about ten feet on good holds till the sharp edge of a flake can be grasped. Now traverse left to the top of the Nose, gripping the flake with the hands and easing the strain by pressing the feet or knees on the bulging rock below.

SECOND ALTERNATIVE TO THE LAST PITCH.

**DESCENT INTO SAVAGE GULLY.**—The leader and second man descend from the ledge to a belay pin below the Nose. The leader then descends on the rope down a crack into the gully, which is reached at a point about 40 feet below the ledge on the right of the Nose. He now crosses Savage Gully, and then traverses below a conspicuous chimney and round the corner to the foot of a 15 foot V chimney about 60 feet from the foot of the crack. The chimney is easily climbed, and then a simple upward traverse to the right for another 60 feet lands him into the upper part of Savage Gully (so called "Stony Gully"), whence a rope can be lowered to the rest of the party below the Nose. If the leader does this alternative alone, the second man should untie as soon as he has crossed Savage Gully, the leader then carrying the rope round; but if there are three or more in the

party, it is safer for two to descend into Savage Gully, the rope being untied between the second and third man only.

**North Climb—Intermediate Variation.**—Difficult. Starts nearly twenty yards to the right of the ordinary route.

- (1) 40 feet. Up grass on the left to a big block.
- (2) 50 feet. A buttress on the left, with grassy holds, leads to a turfey ledge.
- (3) 25 feet. Step across the foot of a short chimney to the right, and climb very steep rocks, working back over the top of the chimney to a good platform. It is possible to join the ordinary route from here.
- (4) 50 feet. A difficult buttress leading to a ledge a few feet below the top of the Twisting Chimney of the North Climb proper.

**North Climb—Westerly Variation.**—Difficult. Commences nearly fifty yards to the west of the ordinary start. In the early days, for some unaccountable reason, this route to the Split Blocks was called the "Easy Way."

- (1) 100 feet. Scrambling up grassy ledges.
- (2) 15 feet. A chimney to the left of a big slab.
- (3) 20 feet. Scramble over some blocks, then across the foot of a wide chimney on the left, and through a narrow corridor to a shelf.
- (4) 15 feet. A short buttress on the left leads to a good platform.
- (5) 25 feet. A difficult V chimney with good finishing holds.
- (6) 35 feet. Easy scrambling straight ahead to a grassy corner.
- (7) 25 feet. Starts with a grassy chimney 10 feet high. This can be avoided by a more difficult but pleasanter buttress on the left.
- (8) 10 feet. A chimney with overhanging chockstone.
- (9) 60 feet. Scree corridor and grassy terrace lead to Split Blocks.

**North West Climb.**—400 feet; exposed and very severe, particularly under wet conditions. Three or four climbers. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. A climb of continuous and

increasing difficulty on sound clean rock, and with fine situations. Starts at the westerly end of the Green Ledge, about 30 yards east of the waterfall.

- (1) 20 feet. Work to the right up a short slab to a grassy ledge.
- (2) 50 feet. A thirty-foot chimney followed by "Three-step traverse" across a slab on the left. (This can be done in two pitches if desired).
- (3) 55 feet. A chimney, finishing at a grassy corner with a belay. A niche 20 feet up can be used to bring the second man to if desired, thus making it into two pitches.
- (4) 50 feet. A short buttress on the left, succeeded by a crack, after which the angle of the rock becomes easier. Cairn on a large grassy platform.

A ten yards' walk to the right to the foot of a rock glacis.

- (5) 30 feet. Ascend glacis then climb up the corner and traverse to the left to a good belay.
- (6) 50 feet. Traverse round a corner to the left; then climb over a bulge into a recess (LE COIN) via two rock ledges. From here the route goes up the right hand side of the recess, the landing on to a grassy ledge at the top being very awkward. A few feet higher, on another grassy ledge, is a good belay.
- (7) 20 feet. Climb the corner then traverse to the left to a nose of rock (small holds) leading to BLOCK LEDGE.
- (8) 50 feet. Step to the left, then climb straight up ledges to a short V chimney. This is overcome by taking a high step to the right, followed by another to the left, which causes the climber to leave the chimney for the moment. A long stride across the top of the chimney to mossy rocks with poor holds, leads to small grassy ledges. The whole pitch (known as LAMB'S CHIMNEY) is very severe, and the finish exposed.

In the first ascent this pitch was avoided for that known as TAYLOR'S CHIMNEY. The latter, which looks even more severe and exposed than Lamb's Chimney, is reached from the Block Ledge by a short traverse to the left;



an open chimney is then climbed for about 40 feet, whence a traverse is made back to the right to the small grassy ledges at the top of the more direct pitch.

- (9) 20 feet. Traverse to the right, then ascend to the foot of the final chimney. Poor stance but good belay.
- (10) 40 feet. **OPPENHEIMER'S CHIMNEY.** The start is awkward, higher up there are footholds on the right wall and the chockstones afford good handholds, but force the climber well out of the chimney.
- (11) 20 feet. Easy scrambling leads to cairn.

#### **Alternative Finish.**

- (9) 60 feet. Instead of climbing up to Oppenheimer's Chimney, continue the traverse lower down and to the right, round the corner, then up ledges to belay.
- (10) 20 feet. An exposed steep wall on the right.
- (11) 20 feet. A wall which can be climbed either on the left or right, the right hand route being the easier. Cairn is reached.

### **WEST SIDE OF LOW MAN.**

**The Appian Way.**—210 feet ; severe ; one exposed pitch. Three or more climbers. Leader needs 70 feet of rope. Starts from a grassy terrace, on which rests a large block, about 50 feet above and to the left of the commencement of the Nook and Wall Climb.

- (1) 15 feet. A mossy open chimney in front is avoided by climbing to a grassy niche on the left.
- (2) 50 feet. The route goes to the right across the top of the chimney, and up steep grass to a corner where a small flake belay was unearthed.
- (3) 45 feet. An imposing wall now confronts one. This is first ascended by climbing the thin crack in the corner. From the top of this a very delicate traverse is made to



*Photo by*

WEST FACE OF LOW MAN.

*J. H. Doughty.*

A.W.—APPIAN WAY.    N.W.—NOOK AND WALL CLIMB.  
W.W.—WEST WALL CLIMB.    N<sup>1</sup>—FIRST NOOK.  
N<sup>2</sup>—SECOND NOOK.    F.—FLAKE.

the left to a fine spike of rock, seen on the skyline, just beyond which a rock stance is reached. The whole pitch is severe and exposed.

- (4) 40 feet. A series of steep ledges straight ahead lead to a grassy terrace, where will be found a large block leaning against the wall. The rope can be threaded behind the block for a belay.
- (5) 60 feet. A rather strenuous and overhanging crack, slightly to the left of the block, is succeeded by slabs. The climb finishes at the cairn at the top of the North West Climb.

#### **Alternative Finish.**

- (5) 60 feet. A number of ledges, easier than those of the fourth pitch, commencing at the right-hand end of the grass terrace, finish twenty feet from the above-mentioned cairn.

**Nook and Wall Climb.**—300 feet; very difficult, with one severe and exposed pitch. Three or more climbers. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. Starts on one of the numerous ledges which flank the left side of the Waterfall reached by the Green Ledge. It commences about 80 feet to the left of, and at the same level as, the top of the Waterfall.

- (1) 50 feet. Ascend to the right for a few feet on to a sloping ledge, and swing into an easy chimney on the left, finishing at a grassy terrace.
- (2) 50 feet. A rock staircase on the left leads to steep rocks. Ascend for a few feet, then traverse to the right to a grassy corner.
- (3) 25 feet. The rib ahead leads to a grassy shelf. Splendid belay. Immediately to the left is the First Nook.
- (4) 45 feet. The rectangular corner is now climbed to a rock ledge, traverse to left along a flake, then up to the Second Nook. This situation can also be identified by the Moss Wall on the left.

- (5) 20 feet. A rock staircase leads to Bad Corner (identified by an "impossible" groove ahead). Stance is very exposed, with no belay to speak of.
- (6) 60 feet. Severe and exposed. Move one step down to the right with a slight swing, then pull up on a good handhold (kind of small flake) until a quartz hold can be reached to attain a standing position. Move now to the right, then ascend first by bridging a corner until near the top of the wall, when the wall itself can be climbed. A rock glacia is now reached, and this ends with a grassy ledge, where will be found a tremendous belay.
- (7) 30 feet. A short easy chimney finishes on a grassy terrace (cairned) within sight of the summit cairn of the North West Climb.

**West Wall Climb.**—200 feet; very difficult; any number. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. A pleasant climb on sound rock with short pitches and good belays. Starts about 40 feet above the level of the top of the Waterfall.

- (1) 10 feet. Easy mantelshelf, leading to a grass ledge.
- (2) 20 feet. A V-shaped chimney marked by a small heap of stones at its foot. There is a good belay on the left of it at the finish.
- (3) 20 feet. Steep rocks straight ahead end on a sloping ledge. A good belay is to be found rather high up on the left.
- (4) 30 feet. A short traverse to the right, then steep rocks leading to a rock glacia. Small belay in the corner.
- (5) 20 feet. A crack on the right wall leads to a good ledge. No belay.
- (6) 40 feet. An upward traverse to the left finishes at a pile of blocks. Splendid belay.
- (7) 35 feet. The blocks are climbed *en face* to the left. Good belay.

- (8) 35 feet. A short exposed groove above is followed by easier rock, which leads to near the top of Low Man. The finish is cairned.

N.B.—This climb was first named West Face of Low Man, Pillar (see F. & R. C. C. Jnl, p. 79, Vol. 5, No.1).

**“North-West by West” (Mallory’s Route).**—It is much regretted that it was not found possible to trace the following climb definitely. In default of an accurate record, the following account has been copied :

“ ‘North-West by West.’ A way was discovered on Low Man between the North West and West Climbs. The party traversed round the foot of the cliffs under the slabs where the North-West lies and above the bounding gully. They followed scratches till the gully’s head, a conspicuous chockstone, was perhaps 40 yards in front of them, and then struck upwards, slanting still to the right until almost directly above the chockstone. Here a strenuous effort was needed to climb a vertical wall of 10 feet. Another steep wall guarded a crack in a vertical slab. The crack itself was too small to accommodate a whole leg, and the leader went up beyond it and traversed back. Above the crack a choice of routes presents itself. The right hand is recommended, because a handsome pinnacle provides security 10 feet higher up, and it will probably be wise to use it even if the left hand way were chosen. The climb ends in view of the cairn which marks the top of the North West. Its length is about 200 feet. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. Rock firm throughout.” (Climbers’ Club Journal, Vol. 3, p. 87, New Series.)

### WEST SIDE OF HIGH MAN.

**Route 2.**—275 feet ; exceedingly severe and exposed. For an expert party only, and in dry weather. Best number, three. Leader needs 70 feet of rope. The foot of the climb is reached by going 80 feet up the Old West Route, and then scrambling upwards for another 20 feet to a grassy ledge. Cairn.

- (1) 45 feet. A moderately difficult rib on the right is ascended for 25 feet to a small rock stance. The slab ahead (more difficult) leads to a green shelf. No belay.
- (2) 35 feet. A nose of rock is turned on the left, grassy ledges being climbed for a few feet until a slab with small holds can be tackled. This finishes on a ledge with loose blocks which provide a moderate belay.
- (3) 35 feet. An exposed traverse. This begins with a long step to the right, and continues across a grassy corner to some blocks. Good belay.
- (4) 30 feet. A crack on the right leads to the foot of the long V-shaped chimney which is so marked a feature of this side of High Man. Instead of climbing this crack (which is almost holdless) one may make two very difficult steps to the right, and then go directly upwards. The chimney is ascended to a belay.
- (5) 15 feet. Continue up the chimney to a Sentry Box. Level with the foot of this, on the left wall, is a shaky block belay.
- (6) 55 feet. The most severe and exposed pitch of the climb. A crack runs up the back of the chimney. The exposed wall on the left is ascended for some feet until a long stride to the right on to a very small hold brings the climbable part of the crack within reach. From here to the top of the crack, the climbing, though short, is very strenuous. After another 20 feet or so in the chimney, an exposed traverse (15 feet) is made to the right to a very small rock stance at the foot of a jagged rib. Belay round the corner on the right.
- (7) 50 feet. After bringing his second to the stance, the leader may return to the chimney and finish it out. The climbing, however, is very unpleasant, and it is preferable to ascend the rib (30 feet) when another 20 feet of easy scrambling finishes the climb.

**Route 1.**—300 feet; exceptionally severe and exposed. For an expert party only, and in dry weather. Best number, three. Leader needs 70 feet of rope. Start: 40 feet along the Old West Route, on a ledge 10 feet above it.

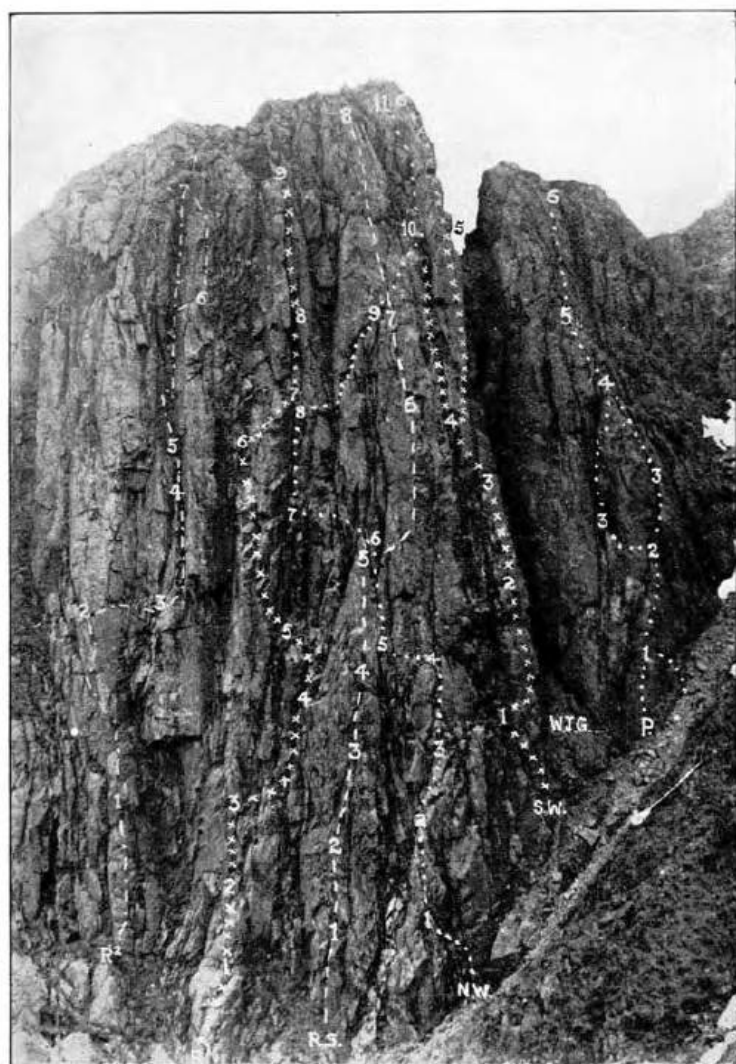


Photo by

J. H. Doughty.

WEST FACE OF HIGH MAN.

R2.--ROUTE 2. R1.--ROUTE 1. R.S.--RIB AND SLAB CLIMB.  
 N.W.--NEW WEST CLIMB. S.W.--SOUTH WEST CLIMB.  
 W.J.G.--WEST JORDAN GULLY. P.--PISGAH WEST RIDGE.

- (1) 25 feet. A broken-up slab of moderate difficulty. Belay.
- (2) 20 feet. The right-hand edge of the slab is now ascended to a small stance. No belay.
- (3) 20 feet. The route trends to the right up a V groove (this has a good hold on the right-hand side at the top) after which steep rocks lead to a grassy niche. Some feet above this, on the left-hand side, is a good belay.
- (4) 40 feet. Traverse 10 feet to the right on grassy ledges to a corner with a crack above it. This crack, which is severe and often wet, is best climbed facing the right wall, and is ascended until it is possible to reach a shelf on the right. A poor stance with a moderate belay in the corner above it.
- (5) 25 feet. A wide staircase with big sloping steps is now climbed for a few feet until a step across to the left can be taken; after which a corner with steep grass is reached. A good belay can be found high up on the side of the rib on the left.
- (6) 60 feet. One mounts on to the aforementioned rib with considerable difficulty; two small sloping ledges follow (the second has a fine spike of rock on it, over which the rope can be hitched). Immediately above this, slightly on the left, is the most exacting section of the pitch—a sloping mantel-shelf, holdless itself, with very little in the way of take-off below. The mantel-shelf ends at a welcome grassy resting place. The rock continues to slope at an unpleasant angle, and a corner is reached affording a restricted stance with doubtful blocks to be used as a belay. This pitch is the hardest on the climb, being exceptionally severe and exposed throughout. (When the climber reaches the spike of rock he will discover that he is almost on a level with the foot of the chimney of the New West Climb, which is nearly 15 feet away. A traverse has been made to the latter from this point, but it is very severe and exposed).
- (7) 30 feet. An exposed traverse over sloping ledges to the right leads to the top of the chimney pitch on the New West



Climb. Small belay high up on the left wall. It will be noticed that the rib has now been recrossed.

- (8) 20 feet. The chimney, which narrows at the top, is climbed to a Sentry Box.
- (9) 50 feet. The chimney continues for another 25 feet, and is followed by a trough until easy walking brings one to a large belay near the top of High Man.

**Rib and Slab Climb.**—300 feet; severe; three to five climbers. Leader needs 80 feet of rope. A very attractive climb on magnificent rock. Starts level with the foot of the New West, and about 40 feet to the left of it.

- (1) 30 feet. Easy rocks and grassy ledges, working slightly to the left, lead to a grassy ledge.
- (2) 30 feet. Step to the right on to a steep rib; climb up this, then break out to the left to a small rock stance.
- (3) 25 feet. A severe slab with a V groove on its left-hand side can be ascended. This, however, may be avoided by climbing on to and up a rib to the right. Belay.
- (4) 25 feet. Severe. The groove overhead (which unfortunately can be avoided by grassy ledges on the right) is hard to enter. After lodgement, climbing is easier. Belay.
- (5) 40 feet. A steep rib, to the left of the groove pitch in the New West Climb, is ascended, and the two routes meet at the top.
- (6) 40 feet. Traverse to the right on to a delectable slab. Keep to its centre as much as possible for the best climbing (it is easier on its right-hand side) passing a stance on the right for one higher up. No belay. It is possible to bring the second man here, but the leader may prefer to finish the next pitch before doing so.
- (7) 30 feet. The slab is at an easier angle, and the pitch finishes at the Belay Blocks on the New West Climb.
- (8) 80 feet. Climb up the New West about 10 feet, then ascend the blistered slab (roughest imaginable) to within a few feet of High Man.

**New West Climb.**—300 feet; difficult; any number. Leader needs 50 feet of rope. A fine and varied climb with good holds and belays. Starts just below a big embedded block a little lower than the South West Climb.

- (1) 20 feet. Easy rocks trending slightly to the left.
- (2) 25 feet. A rib leading to a small grassy corner.
- (3) 25 feet. A steep staircase finishing on a good earth ledge.
- (4) 20 feet. A wide shallow chimney leading to a small platform.
- (5) 15 feet. A short traverse to the left to a good belay.
- (6) 35 feet. A fairly difficult groove.
- (7) 20 feet. Ten feet of slabs followed by a traverse to the left to the foot of a chimney. There is a good belay at the beginning of the traverse, and a fair stance at the foot of the chimney, but the leader may prefer to climb about six feet higher over the bottom chockstone in the chimney.
- (8) 30 feet. A difficult chimney.
- (9) 30 feet. Traverse to the right; then mount on to a pile of blocks forming a magnificent belay.
- (10) 40 feet. A difficult slab is climbed to a rock stance at its right-hand upper corner. Belay six feet above stance.
- (11) 30 feet. A short chimney leading to High Man.

**South West Climb.**—250 feet.; very severe and exposed. Three or more climbers. Leader needs 70 feet of rope. An exceptionally fine face climb with small but sufficient holds. Nailed boots should be taboo. Starts at the bottom of the scree in West Jordan Gully, and to the left of it.

- (1) 30 feet. Easy rocks lead to a grassy ledge on the left of a slab.
- (2) 45 feet. A severe slab. Climb up this to a deep cut hold; then an awkward step is taken to the right. The slab steepens somewhat later on, but excellent handholds are to be found higher up to overcome the difficulty.
- (3) 40 feet. Another slab on the edge of the gully leads to a good ledge. A better ledge, however, is reached a little higher up, overlooking the gully.

- (4) 15 feet. Traverse to the left to a moderate belay below a stretch of wide slabs.
- (5) 60 feet. Keep to the right, and very soon the slab assumes the steepness of a wall, with very small holds. Relief is found by traversing underneath a large block in the direction of Jordan Gap.
- (6) 60 feet. Retrace steps underneath the block, and climb up a steep rib, joining Far West Jordan Climb on the way to High Man.

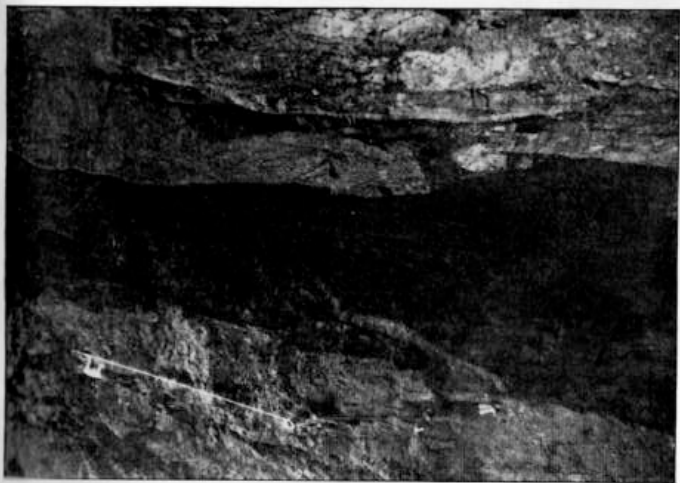
VARIATION (This was the original route).

60 feet. Instead of taking to the right after the 15 foot traverse, climb up a grass covered slab to a wide V chimney, usually wet. This connects with the final pitch of the New West Climb.

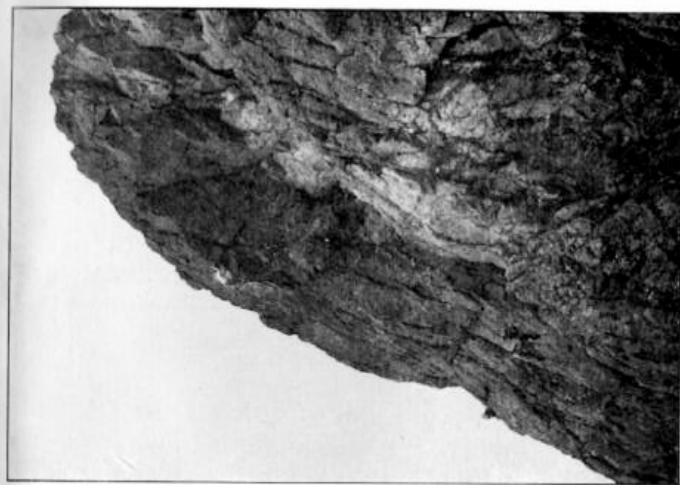
**West Jordan Gully.**—100 feet of actual climbing; severe; three or more climbers. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. This gully is the prominent cleft separating Pisgah from the main rock.

Eighty feet of scrambling up scree in the bed of the gully leads to the first pitch.

- (1) 30 feet. A pitch (15 feet) with two chockstones, followed by a scree walk to the foot of the cave pitch.
- (2) 15 feet. Chockstones lead to the cave.
- (3) 10 feet. Good footholds on the left wall (looking out) enable the climber to bridge the gully until he can reach an unexpected niche on his right.
- (4) 50 feet. If a third man is in the party the second man in the niche can be secured to the third man in the cave by threading his rope through a hole at the back. The second can now hold the leader whilst he first of all traverses the wall until he can bridge. On reaching large sloping footholds a good left handhold can be used to pull from underneath the capstone into the open part of the gully again. Thirty feet of easier climbing follows, and the finish is up a slab on the right, which brings one to the top of the Great Capstone.



*Photo by*  
*J. H. Doughty.*  
SOUTH WEST CLIMB—  
(SECOND AND THIRD PITCHES).



*Photo by*  
*H. Coates.*  
SOUTH WEST CLIMB—  
(THE LAST TWO PITCHES).

**Variation Finish to the right of the Great Capstone.**

On reaching the large sloping foothold after traversing from the niche, stride across to the right wall. Good but small holds can now be utilised for ascending this vertical wall until the crack between it and the capstone is wide enough to enter. This is best climbed facing left, the top of the capstone providing good holds. A further alternative consists in leaving the vertical wall just mentioned by means of a ledge on the right which runs up to Pisgah West Ridge. The chief difficulty lies in effecting a lodgement on the ledge; once on it the position improves, and the ledge broadens out towards the finish.

**Alternative Start to West Jordan Gully.**

A crack on the left wall affording 35 feet of severe climbing. Starts at the same level as the ordinary route. About half way up where the crack begins to widen it is perhaps best to step to the right of the rib and bridge the gully, rejoining the crack at its widest part. The ordinary route is joined at the niche at the end of the third pitch.

**WEST SIDE OF PISGAH.**

**Pisgah West Ridge.**—200 feet; very difficult; any number. Leader needs 40 feet of rope. Starts at the lowest point of the buttress immediately to the right of West Jordan Gully.

- (1) 25 feet. A wall (severe) is climbed to a ledge. An easier alternative is to be found round to the right.
- (2) 20 feet. A short buttress. Belay.
- (3) 30 feet. A crack followed by a grassy groove.
- (4) 25 feet. Break out on to the buttress on the left.
- (5) 40 feet. Continue straight ahead over rocks at an easy angle.
- (6) 50 feet. Scrambling leads to the summit of Pisgah.

**Variation.**—Severe. Starts at the third pitch of the above.

- (3) 35 feet. Immediately a small grassy platform in the crack of the third pitch is reached, a short exposed traverse

across a wall on the left leads to a corner with a small grassy stance.

- (4) 50 feet. A grassy crack is entered with some difficulty. As soon as it widens\* take to the buttress on the right, after which the climber will find himself at the top of the fourth pitch.

\* It is possible to make a further variation by taking to the left from here. A crack (grassy) is soon reached. The top of this divides a pinnacle from the main mass. Another 15 feet of easy scrambling to the right leads to the foot of the fifth pitch.

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## OUTLYING CLIMBS.

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### CLIMBS IN WEST COVE—PILLAR FELL.

There is a fair amount of climbing of good quality on the crags at the head of the cove on the west side of Pillar Rock.

**Wide Gully\*** splits the crags from top to bottom, its start being about 300 feet from West Jordan Gully at a slightly higher level than the foot of the latter.

The Gully is entered and the severe looking cave pitch formed by a huge chockstone is turned by a twenty-foot staircase on the right. After a scree walk one is confronted by a 15 foot pitch crowned by a square capstone. The direct ascent of this is severe, but there is an easier alternative on the left. A short easy pitch of a few feet follows, and the foot of a water-worn slab is reached. The slab is about 15 feet long, and is succeeded by 45 feet of easier climbing which takes one into the section of the gully enclosed by lofty and impressive

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\* This is possibly the gully first climbed by D. G. Murray in 1913. In the absence of any settled name, I have taken the liberty of christening it.

walls and to the foot of the final pitch (50 feet). The wide crack on the right will appeal to one as being the best way to tackle this forbidding pitch. The natural method is to face right and use the sloping but good holds on the broken face of the wall, with occasional use of chockstones in the crack for the left hand. Above the crack is a nest from which one moves to the other side of the gully; the remaining few feet, owing to the paucity of holds, make the finish of the climb just severe.

**Chimney Variation of Wide Gully.**—Uniformly difficult. To the left of the 15 foot slab pitch, a fine looking chimney can be taken as an alternative to the remainder of the gully. The chimney, which is nearly 40 feet long, is rather constricting in its upper part. Beyond this is a wide shallow recess (40 feet). After a few feet the recess is entered and is climbed by a series of awkward and narrow ledges, the crack on its left-hand side being quite useless. A considerable amount of easy scrambling then ensues before the top of the ridge is reached.

**Branch Gully.**—As soon as the first pitch of the ordinary route is done, another wide gully will be noticed on the right. This has only one short easy pitch, the remainder being grassy. The buttress which divides the upper part of the gully might possibly offer some moderate climbing, as also the ridge on the right from the top of the short pitch.

**Long Chimney.**—Very difficult. Starts fifty feet to the right of Wide Gully.

A narrow chimney, 30 feet high, forms the initial pitch. The exit is a little awkward. The succeeding 40 foot chimney is more difficult still, and at present contains some doubtful chockstones. If the ridge above the chimney is followed past the top of Branch Gully, a mass of rock stands in the way. Straight ahead is a very difficult chimney, but a much pleasanter and easier chimney with a skylight exit, will be found some distance to the right and round the corner.

### GREAT DOUP BUTTRESS.

This course is situated at the head of Great Doup—the cove east of Pillar Rock. Although the buttress presents such an imposing appearance, the climbing is of only a moderate character.

The climb starts at the lowest point of the crag, and for 130 feet consists of scrambling over grassy ledges, trending to the right to a large grassy platform which is cairned. 10 feet higher is another platform whence the climbing steepens for another 35 feet until a pinnacle on the right hand edge of the buttress is reached. The climb continues over steep ledges to a rather difficult short V chimney, the total run-out being nearly 40 feet. Following this there is some 40 feet of scrambling, which includes a short easy chimney. The next pitch is 30 feet long, and starts with a crack, identified by a detached pinnacle in its lower part. 70 feet of easy rock then lead to a saddle below a small tower, beyond which a horizontal ridge links up the buttress with the main mass.

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### HIND COVE CLIMBS.

Hind Cove is the spacious hollow which is crossed by the High Level Route just before the ascent to Robinson's Cairn. The climbs are situated high up the combe on its right-hand side. They are easily located by a conspicuous black cleft.

**Hind Cove Gully.**—This gully, the black fissure just mentioned, has only one pitch, 40 feet long. It can be climbed either by the cave route, formed by large chockstones, or by a narrow chimney on the left. Neither route presents much difficulty. The rest of the gully consists of scree and grass scrambling, the only remarkable feature of the place being the depth to which the fissure penetrates the hillside.

**Hind Cove Buttress.**—280 feet ; very difficult ; any number. 60 feet of rope for leader. The climb forms the left wall of the gully.



- (1) 25 feet. A few feet of easy scrambling lead to a tower. A thin crack ahead can be turned on the right. Small but good rock stance. Belay.
- (2) 25 feet. A short moderate crack followed by easier rocks. A short grassy walk leads to a continuation of the buttress.
- (3) 30 feet. A second tower is climbed up its centre, whence a severe short groove is encountered which can be avoided on the right. A few feet higher is a good rock platform. No belay.
- (4) 45 feet. A 15 foot slab (climbed on the right side) followed by easy broad sloping ledges. Another short walk brings one to further continuation of the buttress.
- (5) 15 feet. A moderate crack.
- (6) 25 feet. A moderate rib.
- (7) 30 feet. A short pleasant slab.
- (8) 55 feet. A fine slab is now seen ; unfortunately this can be avoided on the left. The finest climbing is, however, up the centre, trending slightly to the right all the time. Very small holds. Severe.
- (9) 30 feet. The slab, in an easier form, is continued to the finish of the climb.

**Slab Climbs.**—These are situated on the right-hand side of the gully. Route 1 forms its right wall. Both climbs are very difficult if the routes described are adhered to.

**Route 1.**—190 feet ; any number. Leader needs at least 60 feet of rope.

- (1) 45 feet. A few feet of easy climbing lead to a short thin crack in the wall ahead. The crack, which is the left of two, is rather strenuous, and is followed by slabs to a sloping heather stance.
- (2) 45 feet. The best climbing is up good slabs on the left, avoiding the heathery ledges on the right. The pitch finishes at a gîte.

- (3) 30 feet. A short V chimney (with overhanging roof) on the left, or alternatively a narrow vertical chimney on the right.
- (4) 20 feet. Easy climbing brings one to a large platform overlooking the gully. (It is possible to descend into the gully from here by an easy chimney).
- (5) 50 feet. A slab a few feet on the right is seen. This, after the first fifteen feet, provides excellent climbing.

**Route 2.**—125 feet ; any number. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. Starts 30 feet to the right of Route 1.

- (1) 30 feet. A steep slab leads to a grassy shelf.
- (2) 55 feet. The slab now continues straight up to a juniper ledge in a V corner.
- (3) 40 feet. The V corner is climbed on to the final slab and the climb finishes a few feet to the right of, and below the last pitch of Route 1.

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### SCOAT FELL.

**Haskett Gully** faces north and is on the crags enclosing Mirklin Cove, in which Low Beck, a tributary of the Liza, rises. The combe is reached from Wasdale via Mosedale, and in crossing the ridge between Steeple and Red Pike, care should be taken to avoid dropping into High Beck Combe. A good guide is to follow the wall along Scoat Fell for about 300 yards, descend by an easy scree shoot, and turn to the right at the foot.

The gully can be seen plainly if approached from Gillerthwaite, as it splits a fine looking buttress to the left of a very wide gully. The climb is about 300 feet long, and one, at least, of the few short pitches in it is severe. It is a very unpleasant climb, mossy, wet, and loose. The first 150 feet is up abominably steep vegetation to the foot of a mossy slab about 10 feet high, which leads to a deep cave with a rather sloping floor. The exit from this cave is up the 15 foot

“holdless” wall on the left, but the leader can be safeguarded by a thread in the roof of the cave. Another mossy wall (15 feet) is encountered, but is probably turned on the left and finishes at some large blocks in the bed of the gully. A further wall pitch (15 feet) follows, and is climbed in the corner, being more awkward than difficult. The rest of the gully, about 100 feet, is only of moderate difficulty.

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### CLIMBS IN MOSEDALE.

These are situated in the Mosedale Valley, i.e. the one lying N.N.W. of Wasdale, whose head, known as Blackem (Black Combe) Head, runs up into the ridge connecting Pillar Mountain and Red Pike. The oldest climbs are those on Elliptical Crag, whilst the most recent are to be found on Wistow Crag, which is high up on the right-hand side of the track to Windy Gap. There have doubtless been other short climbs done in this cirque of Mosedale, as one has come across occasional references to scrambles on the rocks there, but not to any definite information as to what was accomplished.

The notes on the Elliptical Crag climbs are supplied from memory, with the assistance of H. B. Lyon's article in the Fell and Rock Climbing Club Journal, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 58; and the others on the Mosedale Buttresses by F. Graham, to whom I am indebted accordingly.

#### **Elliptical Crag.**

Follow the Mosedale Beck until about 500 feet below the main ridge, when a wall of rock stands in the way. The crag, nearly 200 feet high, will be obvious from a glance at the accompanying diagram of the climbs. As its position lies in the main path of drainage of this side of the fell, it will be found that the cracks, which provide most of the climbing, are usually wet; and, in the case of rainy weather, form cascades of no small volume. The climbing, under good conditions, is excellent, most of it being of a high quality and of a fair amount of difficulty, especially in the

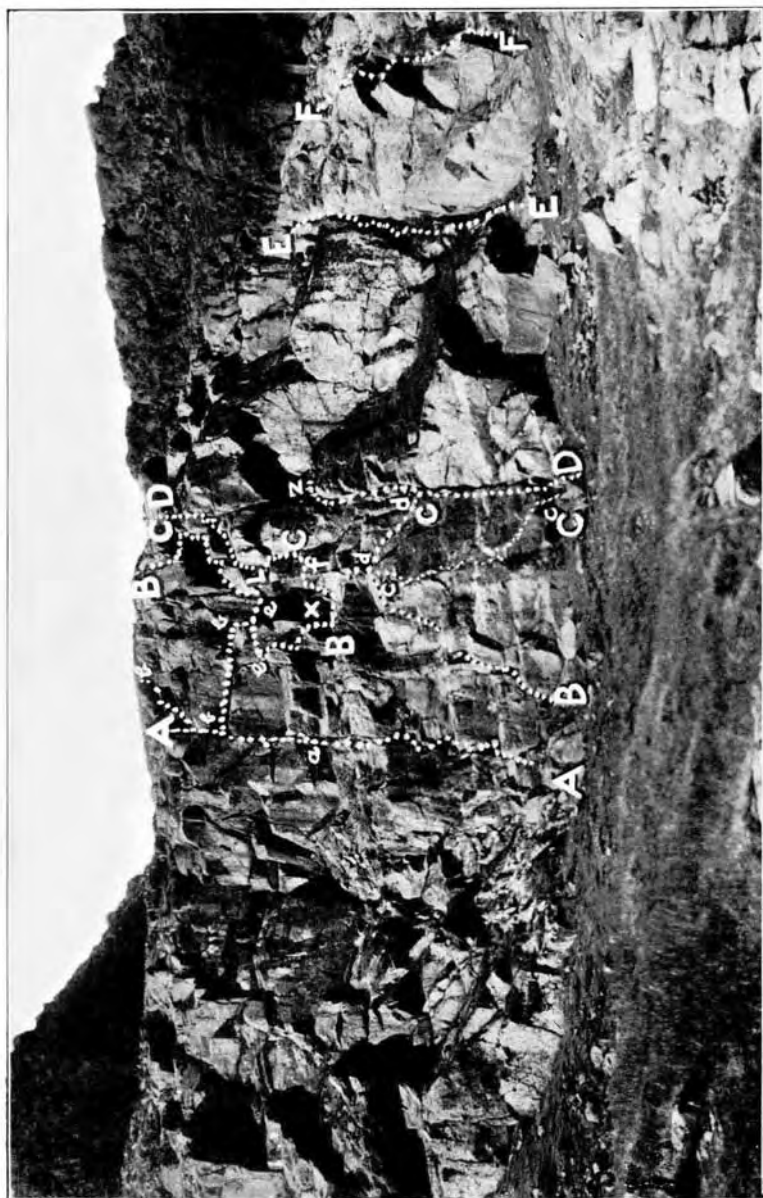
upper parts. No attempt has been made to go into details, as, until towards the finish, the climbs make themselves manifest and the diagram almost supplies the rest. Sixty feet of rope is ample for the leader on any of them.

**Easter Crack.**—A very enjoyable combination of crack, slab, and mantelshelf climbing. The first real difficulty is encountered about 50 feet up. A short section (a) further on is harder, though. After this the climbing becomes more amenable.

**Left Face Route.**—Moderate climbing for about 100 feet delivers one on the Central Platform (x). The route now goes over ledges to the left, which are very awkward to surmount, the first being attained by an arm-pull; these are followed by a very delicate movement to the right, known as the "Two-Strid Traverse" (e-e). There are two alternatives after this—the first is a traverse to the left into Easter Crack, but the more independent thing to do is to climb the succession of corners which trend to the right in the direction of the Right Face Route.

**Right Face Route.**—This climb has a variety of starts, viz., by way of Black Crack, or a thin crack in the slabs on the latter's left, or up the slabs themselves, this last being the most pleasant. They all ultimately arrive at the Central Platform. From here two square blocks up on the right wall are climbed with some difficulty, after which a platform (christened Look-out Corner) is reached. The next problem is more perplexing, but the crack in the corner provides a means of exit. It is not nearly so hard as "Amen Corner," on Gimmer, to which it has been likened. Some easy corners finish out the climb.

**Black Crack.**—Climbing of no great difficulty for just over 100 feet brings the climber to Black Corner (z). The Black Crack overhead is, as it looks, repulsive even when there is no water spouting from its lip. It would probably go if the rock was dry and free from moss; as it is there is nothing more to be done but retrace one's steps.



### ELLIPTICAL CRAG.

- A.—EASTER CRACK. B.—LEFT FACE ROUTE. C.—RIGHT FACE ROUTE. D.—BLACK CRACK. E.—SMALL CHIMNEY. F.—SMALL CRACK. G.—SPLINTER BELAY PITCH IN A. H.—EASY TERRACE FINISH TO B. I.—VARIATION ROUTE STARTING C. J.—25-FOOT TRAVERSE IN C. K.—CENTRAL PLATFORM BETWEEN B. AND C. L.—TWO-STRID TRAVERSE IN B. M.—TWO BLOCK TRAVERSE IN C. N.—X.—CENTRAL PLATFORM BETWEEN B. AND C. O.—Z.—BLACK CORNER IN D. P.—E.—LOOK-OUT CORNER IN C. Q.—R.—S.—T.—U.—V.—W.—X.—Y.—Z.—aa.—bb.—cc.—dd.—

**Small Chimney.**—A scramble of 20 feet up some grass leads to the first pitch, a chimney affording 15 feet of moderate climbing. The next section (20 feet) is rather more difficult; the chimney narrows somewhat, and there is also an awkward chockstone to surmount. The rest (15 feet) is easy.

**Small Crack.**—A short and uninteresting climb of moderate difficulty.

**Slab Climb.**—Lies between Small Chimney and Small Crack. The first pitch (50 feet) starts on the right of the slab, and bears to the left towards the chimney—there is no stance to speak of. The next 40 feet is harder still; a traverse first being made a little to the right, after which the route goes straight up until it is possible to work back to the left to a moderate ledge. No belay. The succeeding 20 feet are much easier.

#### Mosedale Buttresses.

The crag on which these buttresses lie can be seen from the hotel yard at Wasdale, and appears as a small dark patch on the southern slope of Pillar Fell. The climbing is on three buttresses, the Lower, Middle, and Upper. The Lower Buttress has a good deal of vegetation, but the actual climbing is pretty clean. The others give short, pleasant climbs, but no really definite routes.

**Route 1.**—200 feet; severe. Starts from the left-hand cairn on the Lower Buttress.

- (1) 70 feet. A few feet of easy rock lead to a square corner (right hand of two such), above which a short, difficult groove is taken. This lands one on a grassy stance beside a square cut recess. From here step up and traverse across this recess to a block on the left. Belay.
- (2) 55 feet. A rib rising above is taken direct from the block and its edge followed to a stance in a corner. No belay.
- (3) 40 feet. From the stance step to the left on to and ascend a continuation of the rib. After a few feet it is interrupted, but continues just on the left. A good terrace is reached above.

- (4) 40 feet. Two short sections lead to the final cairn.

**Route 2.**—200 feet ; severe. Starts from the right-hand cairn on the Lower Buttress.

- (1) 70 feet. A wall is climbed to a rather narrow heather ledge in a corner. After making an exposed and rather difficult step round the steep rib on the left, and gaining a sloping stance, one makes for another stance above and slightly to the right. From here one steps to the left, and then takes a broken groove to a large platform. Belay.
- (2) 50 feet. A few feet along this platform to the left is a mossy groove or crack. Starting in this, one steps into another groove on the left, and then takes to the right edge of a small buttress (the left edge of this forms the rib on Route 1). This is followed to the same stance as on Route 1.
- (3) 40 feet. From the right edge of the nearly horizontal slab that forms the stance, one climbs the face above to a vertical wall. Here one follows a diagonal traverse to the left, and then goes up an open corner, finally landing at the broad terrace.
- (4) 40 feet. Identical with the last pitch of Route 1.

**Route 3.**—70 feet ; difficult. The left hand route on the Middle Buttress.

Having gained a narrow grassy ledge, follow a thin crack to the first scoop. Traverse left for ten feet or so, and climb up to the second scoop. A slight bulge leads one to a square recess.

**Route 4.**—70 feet ; difficult.

From the right-hand cairn climb up to a boss of rock. Climbing diagonally to the left, one reaches the square recess.

**Route 5.**—120 feet ; difficult. Starts from a cairn on a terrace below the right-hand face of the Upper Buttress.

- (1) 30 feet. A rough face is followed to a stance and belay.

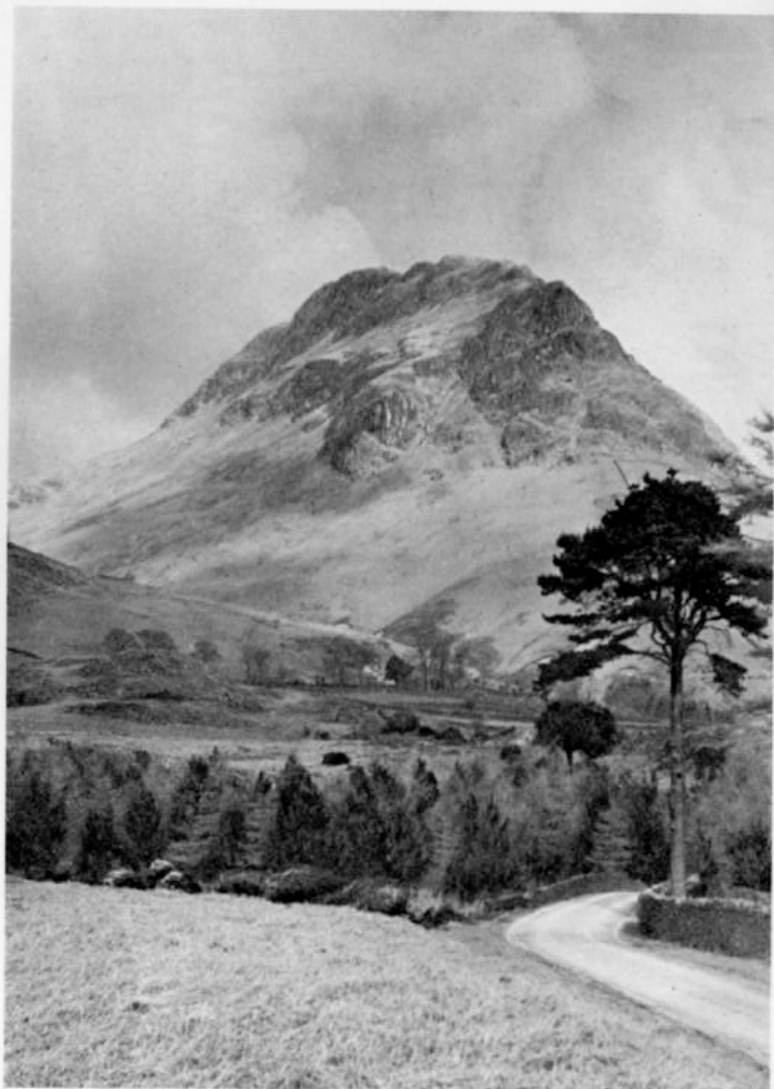


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J. H. DOUGHTY,

YEWBARROW



- (2) 60 feet. After a few feet of steep climbing on wonderful holds, traverse to the left for 20 feet or so, and then, passing two platforms, reach a terrace.
- (3) 30 feet. Climb straight up the middle of the wall above to the final cairn.

**Route 6.**—140 feet ; difficult. The start is from a detached block on the left of the former route.

- (1) 100 feet. Climb up fairly steep rocks to an overhang, where one traverses to the right into a sort of cave pitch. Taking this more or less direct one follows an ascending traverse on the left wall. From the final big ledge, climb straight up the wall till one joins and follows Route 5 to the terrace.
- (2) 40 feet. A simple traverse leads once more to the left, and the finish is soon reached.

**Boulders.**—There are at least two moderate-sized boulders in this valley which afford considerable amusement, apart from testing the climber's skill in the scrambles on them. The most famous of these is the Y BOULDER, situated about a mile above Ritson's Force, and easily recognised from a distance by a Y-shaped crack. There are nearly a score of routes up it of varying degrees of difficulty, one of which can be done feet foremost. The other boulder in question lies a short distance further up the valley.

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### OVERBECK CLIMBS.

These are situated less than two miles from Wasdale, at the Bowderdale end of Yewbarrow. As one walks down the road by Wastwater, a divergent path will be seen not far from the spot where Overbeck empties itself into the lake. This takes one across the lower end of the spur of Bell Rib (a knott on Yewbarrow) after which a wall is followed upward until an easy traverse can be made across to a crag on the left (known as Dropping Crag) which has been seen for some time.

As the climbs are only short and close together, and also because they are within an hour's journey from headquarters, the place will be found suitable for days shortened by rain in the morning. This, however, should not be the main reason for visiting them, for they offer, as a whole, climbing of no little merit, especially if the buttress is included in the list.

**Overbeck Buttress.**—120 feet; one pitch severe; any number of climbers. Leader needs 60 feet of rope. Starts at the lowest point of the crag, which is on its right-hand side.

- (1) 50 feet. Moss covered slabs are climbed to a heathery glacis. No belay.
- (2) 20 feet. The climb follows the right-hand edge of the wall ahead to a small stance round the corner. Belay.
- (3) 50 feet. The route now assumes the vertical; first crossing to the left of the ridge, and then, by a delicate movement, to the right-hand side, which is followed to the finish of the climb.

From the foot of the above climb, a grassy terrace running up below the crag, if followed for about 40 yards, leads to a prominent broad slab which slopes up for some 25 feet at a moderate angle. Access to all the chimneys is gained by climbing this slab. A step to the right from its top brings one to the foot of E chimney. Four yards further along to the right is the foot of C Chimney; and still further along and round a corner is the start of B Chimney.

**E Chimney.**—60 feet; difficult; any number of climbers. Leader needs 30 feet of rope, or 35 feet if the Variation Finish is taken.

- (1) 20 feet. A narrow chimney climbed first in the bed and then on the mossy left wall to a small ash tree.
- (2) 10 feet. Traverse diagonally upwards to the right over small grassy ledges to the foot of a narrow chimney.
- (3) 20 feet. A narrow vertical chimney climbed to a cramping cave above the chockstone.
- (4) 10 feet. A squirm through a hole.



*Photo by* J. H. Doughty.  
OVERBECK CRAG.



*Photo by* J. H. Doughty.  
OVERBECK BUTTRESS.

**Variation Finish, starting from the Ash Tree.**

- (2) 30 feet. A chimney on the left, half-choked with bushes, leads to a large shelf.
- (3) 20 feet. A steep corner with good holds.

**C Chimney.**—65 feet ; very difficult ; any number. Leader needs 30 feet of rope.

- (1) 20 feet. Chimney. Moderate climbing to a chockstone.
- (2) 25 feet. The chimney overhangs and narrows, finishing on a platform.
- (3) 20 feet. A ridge with rather sloping holds.

**B Chimney.**—55 feet ; moderately difficult. Any number. Leader needs 25 feet of rope.

- (1) 20 feet. Easy rocks (5 feet) lead into a chimney which is climbed to a chockstone.
- (2) 15 feet. Break out on the right to a cluster of jammed boulders, immediately adjoining the top of the second pitch of C.
- (3) 20 feet. Chimney in the corner.

**CLIMBS ON BUCKBARROW.**

Buckbarrow is the first rocky bluff seen when approaching Wasdale by the road from Seascale, and is distant about four miles from Wasdale Head. It has a fine appearance, but what climbing there is on it, is only short. Perhaps the left-hand crag would repay exploration, but even this, imposing as it is, suffers from the same defect. The climbing seems at present (for the records are meagre) to be confined to the easterly end of the rocks, well to the right of a conspicuous easy scree shoot.

**Forked Gully.**—The left hand branch of this gully is only a scramble, but there is an interesting pitch in the right fork. The first problem is a short pitch of ten feet, which is succeeded by an impressive deep cleft 30 feet high. Easy

back and foot climbing enables one to reach a jammed stone. Above this the climbing is much harder, and to get out at the top very difficult indeed. The pitch is almost impossible for a short man, and is easier in ratio for a tall man. After another short pitch, serious climbing finishes.

**Rowan Tree Gully.**—Rowan Tree Gully is the next gully on the right. The first pitch is short and easy, and is followed by a cave pitch. After passing under a Rowan Tree, a large block is reached, which fills the bed of the gully, and is climbed on the right. A mossy slab, forming the right wall, is now mounted; after which a long grassy walk leads to two parallel chimneys, either of which finishes the climb. The one on the left, though a little shorter than its sixty foot neighbour, is the more difficult of the two, and is reached by making a traverse across a slab. The middle section of this chimney, just below the first chockstone, is the hardest part. Some feet higher, the final chockstones help considerably to finish the chimney.

**Left Face Climb.**—This is situated between the above-mentioned gullies. It starts from a terrace a little higher than the level of the Rowan Tree in the gully. A little buttress, about 30 feet high, providing moderate climbing, can be turned on the right if desired. The crag now steepens, and the route trends a little to the right on holds that are just adequate. A narrow ledge above is gained with some difficulty, and is traversed to the left past some large blocks. A long stretch of heather and grass leads to the summit of the crag.

**Right Face Climb.**—Starts midway between Rowan Tree Gully and Hidden Gully, at about the same level as the Left Face Climb. For the first pitch (40 feet) steep rocks are climbed for a short distance, then a movement, past some blocks on the right, finishes on a grassy terrace. The crag now presents a series of slabs, and overhangs. These are avoided by a grassy traverse to the right for a distance of 30 feet. Good belay. The next pitch (40 feet) is up the mossy wall straight ahead, and has poor finishing holds. The same

point was also reached by an exposed traverse to the right, after going up about 12 feet above the belay. Easy slabs on the right prolong the climb to the top of the crag.

**Hidden Gully.**—This gully is disappointing, being choked with trees and vegetation which hide it from view when near at hand.

---

### CRAG FELL PINNACLES.

(ENNERDALE WATER).

These Pinnacles are situated on the North Side of Crag Fell, less than 500 feet above the summit of Angling Crag, the prominent headland on the south shore of Ennerdale Water. They look very fine in profile, i.e., when seen from the direction of Gillerthwaite; or when approaching the Lake from Ennerdale Bridge. Unfortunately they only disappoint when nearer to, and resemble an outcrop of Derbyshire grit stone without providing the quantity and quality of climbing obtained thereon, and despite the fact that closer inspection brings back, somewhat, one's more distant impression.

To visit them from the Angler's Inn takes less than an hour. A short walk along the shore of the Lake to its outlet brings one to a new footbridge which enables a crossing of the Ehen to be made without making the detour one expected from a perusal of the map. The path leading to the top of Angling Crag is taken, whence the ridge on the right is followed. A grassy rake trending to the right will soon be reached, and although there are numerous small pinnacles scattered about the hillside, those sought for will be unmistakable, for the route described takes one almost on to their summit.

As seen from this, the left-hand side, the main outcrop is nothing more than a serrated ridge, except that on the right a narrow cleft, about 20 feet deep, forms a pinnacle on the outer side, and divides it from a lesser one. The long side of

the larger (something like 80 feet) is steep, and so far as ascending it by this way is thought of, it is probably impossible. It is quite likely that both ends of the cleft would provide a climb of some difficulty, but it will be obvious that either will only take one, in the first instance, on to the lesser pinnacle, from which a stride of no great moment will enable one to gain the top of the main pinnacle. To reach any of the incipient pinnacles of the serrated ridge, or the small pinnacle itself, involves nothing more than a little scrambling.

A short distance to the west an isolated rock will be seen. This tower is less than 20 feet in height from the neck of land which connects it with the mountain slope at the back; and not more than 100 feet high on its long side. The short side overhangs a little and does not appear feasible. A route, however, has been made up the pinnacle by R. S. and J. W. Robinson, who describe their ascent as follows: "This pinnacle on the side next the lake is about 150 feet in height, and from the gully where the climb begins, about 25 feet, the climb is vertical, and this makes it much harder than D.G.P. of Scafell by the easy way. Enter the top of the gully, keep close to the main wall of rock, and begin to climb at once."

As far as is known this is all the climbing that has been done on this outpost of our playground. Probably there is much more of varying quality to be found. My visit was of too short duration, and made under too wet conditions, to enable a thorough investigation to be made. Whatever the outcome, a visit will certainly take one off the beaten track, and give new viewpoints, and a wider knowledge of the country one had hitherto thought one knew so well.

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1958, N.Y.

J. H. DOUBHTY.

ENVOI



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### OUTLYING CLIMBS.

The classification of the majority of these will be found in the description of each climb.

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## OUTLYING CLIMBS.

The classification of the majority of these will be found in the description of each climb.

## LIST OF FIRST ASCENTS.

## PILLAR ROCK.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1826—Old West Route ...   | J. Atkinson.  |
| 1862 (about)—Old Wall Route   | Matthew Barnes.<br>W. Graves.<br>probably others.   |
| 1863, Aug. 14th.—Slab and Notch<br>Climb  | J. W. E. Conybeare.<br>A. J. Butler.<br>E. Leeke.<br>J. C. Leeke.<br>T. R. C. Campbell.<br>J. P. Poyer.<br>J. W. Pratt. |
| N.B.—It is not certain whether the first ascent via the Slab went through the Notch or round by the Ledge—the so-called Easy Way.   |   |
| 1872, Sept. 22nd.—Pendlebury<br>Traverse  | F. Gardiner.<br>W. M. Pendlebury.<br>R. Pendlebury.<br>probably others.   |
| 1882, Aug./Sept.—West Jordan Climb  | W. P. Haskett-Smith.  |
| 1882, Aug./Sept.—Central Jordan Climb   | do.   |
| 1884, Aug./Sept.—East Jordan Climb  | do.   |
| On July 27th, 1919, the East Jordan Climb was made independent of the Central Jordan Climb by giving it a new start and a slightly different finish.—H. M. Kelly, C. G. Crawford, C. F. Holland, and N. E. Odell. |   |
| 1887, Mar. 5th—Great Chimney,<br>The Arête and The Curtain.   | do.   |
| It is uncertain when these climbs were first done, but the date of the third ascent of The Curtain is given as April 10th, 1899.  |   |

- 1890, Dec. 29th—Shamrock Gully  
(by Right-hand route  
of Great Pitch) G. Hastings.  
Chas. Hopkinson.  
J. W. Robinson.

A previous ascent had been made by the help of a snowdrift.

On Dec. 29th, 1896, the Left-hand route of the Great Pitch was first climbed by O. G. Jones, W. J. Williams, G. D. Abraham and A. P. Abraham.

- 1891, July 27th—North Climb  
(Savage Gully exit). W. P. Haskett-Smith.  
G. Hastings.  
W. C. Slingsby.

N.B.—This was by the Westerly Variation, but the Stomach Traverse Route, to the Split Blocks only, had been climbed by Haskett-Smith and his brother Edmund previously when exploring the North Face.

On Feb. 13th, 1892, the Hand Traverse was first done by G. A. Solly, G. Hastings, H. A. Gwynne, E. Greenwood, and W. C. Slingsby. (This was also by the Westerly Variation).

The Nose Direct was first climbed about 1893, by J. Collier, S. B. Winser, and probably others.

Aug. 26th, 1921 — Intermediate Variation by H. M. Kelly, R. E. W. Pritchard, J. H. Doughty and H. Coates.

- 1892—April 21st—East Pisgah Chim-  
ney (Right) O. G. Jones.

The Left-hand Chimney was climbed on May 26th, 1923, by H. M. Kelly. Probably been done before.

- 1894, Sept. 23rd—Shamrock Chim-  
neys R. S. Robinson.  
J. W. Robinson.  
L. R. Wilberforce.  
W. H. Price.

- 1898, Mar. 31st—Pisgah from Jordan  
Gap (first recorded  
ascent) J. S. Sloane.  
T. Brushfield.  
S. Mason.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1919, July 29th—Rib and Slab Climb  | C. F. Holland.<br>H. M. Kelly.<br>C. G. Crawford.     |
| 1919, July 29th—West Wall Climb   | H. M. Kelly.<br>C. F. Holland.<br>C. G. Crawford.     |
| 1919, Aug. 3rd—East Jordan Wall   | C. G. Crawford.<br>C. F. Holland.                     |
| 1919, Aug. 3rd—Jordan Bastion   | C. G. Crawford.<br>C. F. Holland.                     |
| 1919, Aug. 9th—Route 1  | H. M. Kelly.<br>C. F. Holland.                        |
| <p>On Sept. 12th, 1911, O. Tindale and others did the last two pitches of this route as a finish to the New West Climb.</p> |   |
| 1919, Aug. 9th—Route 2  | H. M. Kelly.<br>C. F. Holland.                        |
| 1920, Sept. 11th—Nook and Wall Climb  | H. M. Kelly.<br>C. F. Holland.<br>R. E. W. Pritchard. |
| 1923, July 16th—The Appian Way  | H. M. Kelly.<br>R. E. W. Pritchard.                   |

### OUTLYING ROCKS.

#### WEST COVE.

- |                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1908, April 22nd—Long Chimney | B. Hoessly.<br>J. D. Hazard.<br>E. E. Roberts.<br>F. Boyd. |
|-------------------------------|--|

- 1913, Easter—Wide Gully (see page 42) D. G. Murray.  
E. B. Beauman.
- April 18th, 1898, by Chimney  
Variation—J. D. Hazard and E. E.  
Roberts.
- Sept. 11th, 1912, by Branch Gully—  
E. E. Roberts.

### GREAT DOUP.

- 1900, Oct. 1st—Great Doup Buttress G. D. Abraham.  
A. P. Abraham.  
E. E. Stock.  
W. E. Webb.  
F. Kennedy.  
T. T. Townley.

### HIND COVE.

- \*1897, Jan. 1st—Hind Cove Gully.  
\*First ascent was evidently made  
on this date, and the only name  
mentioned in connection therewith  
is that of R. C. Gilson, though  
there were probably others.
- 1923, May 24th—Hind Cove Buttress H. M. Kelly.  
B. Eden-Smith.
- 1923, May 24th—Slab Climbs—Routes  
1 and 2. H. M. Kelly.  
B. Eden-Smith.

### SCOAT FELL.

- 1908, April 22nd—Haskett Gully W.P.Haskett-Smith.  
L. J. Oppenheimer.  
(L. J. Oppenheimer led the cave  
pitch). H. Scott Tucker.

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