

rewarded with a view which may challenge comparison with any that the Lake of Lucerne affords.

Its chief features are the views of the lake 1800 feet below us, with the steamboats traversing the "Kreuztrichter," the grassy heights of the Rigi rising opposite to us, the level country round the lake to the north, and "Lucerne beneath our feet"—the whole forming a scene which cannot fail to make a deep impression upon the spectator.

Fifty paces further on, at the present termination of the path, which is hereafter to be continued till it leads all round the mountain, an electric lift conveys the visitor to the *Känzeli* on the *Hammetschwand*, 540 feet higher (see below under "Bürgenstock"). From here we can return by the lift and the *Felsenweg*, or by the *Hammetschwand* path to the hotels and the *Bürgenstock* station (30 min.).



## THE STANSERHORN.

The majestic mountains surrounding the Lake of the Four Cantons include, besides the Rigi and Pilatus, the beautiful pyramid of the *Stanserhorn*, which rises, clothed to its summit with forests and pastures, between the vale of *Engelberg* and the little state of *Obwalden*. This mountain has long been a favourite with tourists, but its fame has increased considerably since it has been rendered easy of access through the opening, in 1893, of a cable railway connecting the summit with the little town of *Stans*.

From *Stansstad*, which is reached by steamboat from *Lucerne* in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour, an electric railway leads in  $\frac{1}{4}$  hour to *Stans*, from which place a cable railway, typical for its system, worked by electric motors supplied from a turbine station near

Buochs, conveys us to the top of the mountain (6233 feet above the sea) in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour, by a line of rails a little over two miles in length with a gradient of 39 in 100. The summit of the Stanserhorn can thus be reached from Lucerne in two hours.

From the station at the entrance to the village of Stans, the railway, which ascends to a height of 4586 feet above its starting-point, and is divided into three sections of about



Stans and the Stanserhorn Railway

equal length, leads through luxuriant meadows to Kälti, where we change carriages. It next passes through a cutting and a wild ravine, and then crosses a torrent by a stone bridge, beyond which another cutting brings us to Blumalp station (3973 feet), which derives its name from the beautiful flowery pastures among which it lies. From here we obtain a bird's-eye view of Stans, which lies almost vertically beneath us, shining like a heap of white pebbles in the green valley, and of the bluish-green Lake of Alpnach, glistening

between the wavy outlines of its banks, while somewhat more distant is the city of Lucerne, fringed by its ancient towers, and beyond it the hilly country of north-eastern Switzerland, dotted with white villages. Continuing the ascent, our line makes a wide sweep through a tunnel and across a massive viaduct, affording surprising glimpses of scenery, on both sides and finally we reach the terminal station, **Stanserhorn**, and step out upon the spacious terrace of the **Hotel**



**Wallenstöcke from the terrace of the Stanserhorn**

**Stanserhorn**, at a height of 6070 ft., commanding an extensive panorama of the Alps.

From the hotel an easy path brings us in five minutes to the gently sloping summit, which commands an unimpeded view in every direction. Owing to its peculiarly favourable situation, the Stanserhorn affords a remarkably fine view; the effect varies, of course, with the weather and the position of the sun, but is particularly impressive at sunrise and sun-

set. The many-branched Lake of Lucerne lies at our feet, embedded among the mountains that surround it, here bathed in deep shadow, yonder gleaming in the sunlight that plays upon its rippling surface; beyond the lake, in the north, is the picturesque hill-country, with the Lakes of Sempach, Baldegg, Hallwil, and Zug, dotting it like fragments of a mirror, and in the distance the long lines of the Jura bound the northern horizon. At the foot of the mountain lie the



**Titlis from the Stanserhorn**

villages of Stans, Stansstad, and Buochs, among their fertile meadows, while in the midst of the Alpine pastures, from which come the pleasant tinkling of the cow-bells and the joyous cries of the herdsmen, stands the mountain village of Wisiberg, with its little white church and brown timber cottages. Projecting into the lake like a rocky peninsula is the Bürgenstock, on the opposite side the beautiful valley of Obwalden, and beyond it the majestic mountains of the Bernese Oberland from Finsteraarhorn to the Wildhorn, here seen grouped to the best advantage and glittering in all their

snowy splendour. In the south, close at hand, the rocky, ravine-like valley of Engelberg is dominated by the magnificent Titlis, forming, with its snowy mantle, a superb pendant to the gloomy majesty of Mount Pilatus, rising in front of the Entlebuch Mountains. And behind the Titlis, rank upon rank of snow-capped peaks, from the Säntis to the Bernese Alps, overpowering the spectator by their grandeur and sublimity.

From the summit of the Stanserhorn we can descend in a few minutes by a good path to the Adlerfluh, which affords a startling view into the depths below us, and from here we can return by a level path leading round the south side of the mountain to the hotel. This walk will afford us a good opportunity of making ourselves acquainted with the remarkably rich flora of the mountain.

Rigi, Pilatus, Stanserhorn,—which of these mountains commands the finest prospect? The question is a difficult one to decide, and we must leave it to the tourist to award the palm to the one he prefers. — *Fare Lucerne-Stanserhorn and back 1st cl. fr. 13.10, 2d cl. fr. 11.45.*

