

MOUNT PILATUS.

Pilatus is another mountain possessing irresistible attractions for the tourist. Rising so defiantly to the west of Lucerne, and presenting such a rugged and savage aspect, we cannot possibly overlook it. Our forefathers dreaded this mountain, and peopled its peaks and gorges with legendary shapes, so that no other mountain is so rich in folk-lore, but



Alpnachstad

we of the present day, who have learned to love the wild Alps, fearlessly scale it either on foot or by the mountain railway leading from Alpnachstad to the summit. There are 8 or 9 summits, indeed, but the one we mean is the *Esel* (6962 feet), which commands the finest view. It is the most easterly of the three peaks dominating Lucerne, the westernmost and loftiest being the *Tomlishorn* (6998 feet), while the northern one is the *Klimsenhorn*.

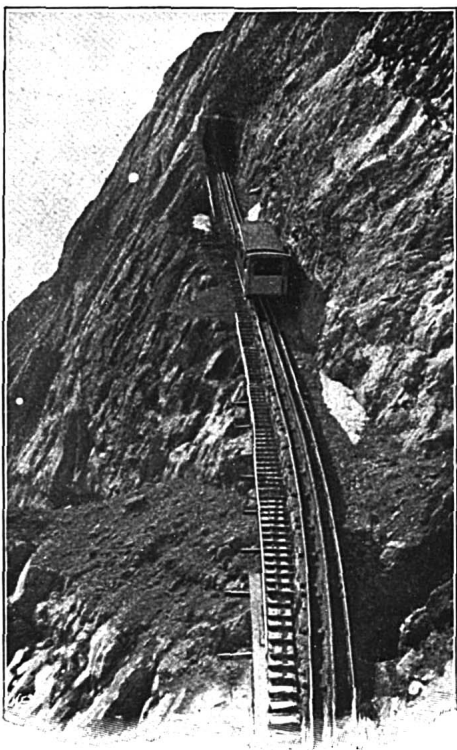
The ascent of Pilatus is made either from Hergiswil, Kriens or Alpnachstad; a fourth route leads from Alpnach up to the

point where it joins the one from Alpnachstad. Tourists from Lucerne generally choose the *Hergiswil path*, reaching that village either by the Brünig Railway, on which it is the second station, or by one of the steamboats plying between Lucerne and Alpnachstad.

The path leads upwards between farmhouses and through meadows and beautiful firwoods, the view increasing in grandeur with every step.

Ascending

past the *Pension Brunni* and across the Gschwend-Alp we come to the Nauen, a débris-strewn slope up which the path winds in zig-zags to the *Hotel Klimsenhorn*, occupying a depression of the mountain, three hours from Hergiswil.



Mounting the Eselwand (Pilatus Railway)

From here a path, partly cut in the rock, partly leading through débris, brings us in an hour to the precipices of the Oberhaupt, then by means of a ladder we traverse the curious natural cavity known as the *Kriesiloch*, reach the crest of the mountain and the *Pilatus-Kulm* and *Bellevue Hotels*, and in 7 minutes more the *Esel*.

The path of **Kriens** (tramway from Lucerne) starts from the center of the village and leads after having passed the church towards the Schattenberg. Half an hour above Kriens the path leads in two branches to Mühlenmäss; the one to the right by way of Böden-Rotbach-Zimmeregg and the one to the left, which is somewhat steeper, by way of Kriensregg (fine view). At Mühlenmäss the ways of Hergiswil and Heiteranni join the path of Kriens.

Alpnachstad, the starting-point of the third path as well as of the Pilatus Railway, can be reached either by the Brünig line or by steamboat. The path leads past a chapel, through beautiful pasture-lands and woods, across the *Aemsigenalp* and *Mattalp*, and in many windings up to the *Esel*, four hours from Alpnachstad.

Approximately the same route is pursued by the **Pilatus Railway**, constructed in 1889 and forming one of the boldest and grandest mountain railways in the world. 5040 yards in length, and with an average gradient of 38 in 100, it accomplishes the ascent from Alpnachstad to Pilatus-Kulm (5528 feet) in 1 hour and 25 minutes. The tourist knows not which to admire most, — the railway or the prospects it affords. Among the most interesting parts from a technical point of view are the *viaduct over the Wolfort Ravine* and the four tunnels piercing the precipices of the *Esel*. Grand beyond description is the view that presents itself to us when on leaving the terminus, which stands close to the old Hotel Bellevue (now a *dépendance* of the spacious and comfortable *Hotel Pilatus-Kulm*), we suddenly see Lucerne and its lake lying at an enormous depth below us.

The Bernese Alps from Pilatus



A staircase with iron balustrade leads in five minutes from the Hotel Pilatus-Kulm to the bold and open summit of the Esel, rising like a tower from the rocky ridge. The first impression which the prospect from Pilatus makes is so overwhelming that it takes some time before we can compose ourselves to observe the details. In the long range of snowy Alps the mountains of the Bernese Oberland are conspicuous, especially the majestic group of the Mönch, Eiger and Jungfrau; the

prospect of the Lake of Lucerne, here seen in its full extent, is also particularly attractive. Numerous other lakes are visible further to the north, including those of Zug, Sempach, Baldegg, and Hallwil, and the horizon is bounded by the blue range of the Jura. Loftier and more commanding even than the Rigi, Pilatus can challenge comparison with the most famous mountains as regards its panorama, and we can strongly recommend the tourist to pass at least one night on the Kulm, to enjoy the magnificent sunset and sunrise.

From the Hotel Pilatus-Kulm a very romantic path, partly blasted in the rocks, and furnished with a balustrade, leads in three-quarters of an hour to the *Tomlishorn* (6998 ft.) the highest summit of the mountain, commanding a view still more extensive than that from the Esel, though inferior in picturesque effect. A new path, also blasted in the rocks and rendered safe by means of railings, leads in three-quarters of an hour past the Kilchsteine and the Teufelskarrgasse to the southern peak, the *Matthorn* (6693 feet). Practised climbers can also ascend the other steep summits with the assistance of guides, and everywhere they will find an abundance of beautiful Alpine flowers, the flora of Pilatus being far more varied than that of the Rigi.

From the Klimeshorn Hotel there is a path leading by *Heitertannli* down into the beautiful grassy ravines of the *Eigentäl*, and it needs scarcely be said that the ascent of Pilatus is the favourite excursion of visitors to the sanatorium in this valley.

If only the tourist is favoured with fine weather, we can promise him that the ascent of this easily accessible mountain will yield him the highest enjoyment.

And now for an excursion on the St. Gothard Railway, which will introduce us to new and equally delightful scenery.

Fare Lucerne-Pilatus and back fr. 18.70.