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numerous small streams, which in flood time are veritable mountain torrents, we enjoy the kaleidoscopic changes of the ever-varying panorama. Peak after peak, and mountain after mountain successively follow one another, now blotting out for a time, and now bringing into fuller relief fresh beauties. Having noted the sheep-station homesteads at Glentanner and Birch Hill, we round the rocky bluff which goes by the name of Sebastopol, and from which during and after wet weather the water pours down in numberless cascades. The Hermitage is now in sight at a distance of three miles, and we are not sorry when we reach our destination—forty miles out from Pukaki, and ninety-seven from Fairlie. Early morning—and where is the morning air so fresh and invigorating as in these mountain districts—reminds us that there is much to be seen and done, but an hour may be profitably spent before breakfast in viewing the mountains, watching the avalanches as they reverberate from Mount Sefton, and in getting a general idea of the lie of the country. Of the many sights to be seen, there is the terminal face of the Mueller Glacier within half an hour's walk, the glacier itself being something over eight miles in length, with an average width of three-quarters of a mile; the great Tasman Glacier, eighteen miles by one and a half; the Hooker Glacier, which is over seven miles in length; and the Murchison, which is ten miles long. One has not to walk far on any of these before he encounters deep crevasses, ice pinnacles, and the omnipresent rock débris, which is the sign manual of glacial action all the world over. The botanist will find any amount of specimens up to a height of about 4,000 feet, and unless he is more adventurous than the ordinary mortal he will be fully satisfied with that degree of elevation. The Alpine climber can, of course, go as high as he likes, or as high as he can get, though the only men who have as yet stood on the top of Mount Cook were Messrs. T. C. Fyfe, the one time local guide, and Zurbriggen, the famous Swiss guide, now dead, who accompanied Mr. Fitzgerald, the English mountain climber. Both of these ascents were made in 1894-5, but a Canterbury amateur party, consisting of Messrs. G. E. Mannering, M. Dixon and others, were successful in getting on to the ridge which lies between the two highest pinnacles, and were only debarred by the approach of night from accomplishing the endeavour on which their hearts were set.

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