

BEINN DEARG AND CÀRN A' CHLAMAIN.

WHOEVER has visited the Beinn a' Ghlo mountains must have noticed, just to the north of Glen Tilt, two important summits much higher than their neighbours. One is Beinn Dearg (3304), appearing from this point, however, as a huge unshapely mass; the other, the one to the east, the more noble of the two, is Càrn a' Chlamain (the Kite's Cairn) (3158). Neither can be said to be very popular among hillmen, though both are easy of access—within $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours of Blair Atholl—and command most extensive and interesting panoramas of

“Mountain and mist, lone glen, and murmuring stream,
Shaggy forest, and grey hillside”.

Beinn Dearg, being equidistant from Struan and Blair Atholl, may be reached either by Glen Bruar or Glen Tilt; an excellent variation being to ascend by the one glen and return by the other. Glen Bruar, I believe, on the whole, offers a better approach than Glen Tilt, in so much that if one wishes it, one may have a road right on to the slopes of the hill; and, further, one is able to view the mountain long before one is actually on it—an important consideration to some. The “glen” road begins just opposite Struan Station, and climbs steadily uphill till it joins the Bruar Water near Cuilltemhuc; then it follows the windings of the stream up the glen. A little short of Cuilltemhuc a magnificent view is got of Beinn Dearg, away at the head of the glen. Two routes now present themselves to the climber. The first and most direct is to leave the road at a point about six miles from Struan, ford the Bruar, and then ascend by the right bank of Allt Hecchan. The other, longer no doubt, but equally good, is to keep to the road till Bruar Lodge is passed; a short distance beyond this a stalker's path will be observed to break off to the right, and rise by the side of a burn to a

height of about 2000 feet, ending just at the base of the final slope of Beinn Dearg. The remaining 1300 feet of this slope, although at first through long heather, then over a sea of boulders, offers very little resistance, and the summit, adorned with its large cairn, is soon reached. The most convenient road from Blair Atholl is that which passes up through Old Blair, just behind the castle, and then runs along the north side of Glen Tilt. This road gives origin to another which leads off about a mile and a half from Old Blair, passes through a strip of wood, and then follows the course of Allt Slanuehaidh to a bothy just below Beinn a' Chait. Our route now lies over the summit of this hill, which occupies a position two miles to the south of Beinn Dearg, then across the dip—the gathering ground of the Allts Heechan and Diridh—between them, and so on to the southern slopes of Beinn Dearg, and finally up to the summit.

Càrn a' Chlamain lies four miles to the east of Beinn Dearg, and may be included in an excursion to that mountain, or ascended direct from Glen Tilt. In the latter case, starting from Blair Atholl, the Right of Way track through Glen Tilt should be followed to about half-a-mile beyond Marble Lodge, where Allt Cruinnich comes tumbling down from the slopes of the mountain. In that part of its course immediately above the road, this burn cuts its way through a deep rocky gorge, and forms some pretty little waterfalls—a perfect treat to the photographer. When the camera has been satisfied, and the visitor emerges from the depths, an old cart track will be found running up the east side of the glen of Allt Cruinnich, and this should be followed to its termination at the junction of the two head-streams of the burn. Thereafter, an easy walk between the forking streams lands one below the stony front of Càrn a' Chlamain, and then it is but a step to the summit.

The view from both hills is very similar, although, perhaps, that from Beinn Dearg is the more extensive of the two; nevertheless they both command a very wide range. Directly north, and over the high ground beyond

the northern Meall Tionail, the sharp peak of Sgor Ghaoith is seen towering above Glen Eunach, and from Càrn a' Chlamain the summit cairn and part of the rocky face of Sgoran Dubh Mor are also visible. In the immediate foreground, and just across the valley of the Tarf, Carn an Fhidleir and An Sgarsoch send down their numerous rills to feed that stream. Behind these, and over Glen Geldie, Monadh Mor and Beinn Bhrotain lead up to the great central mass of the Cairngorms—Braeriach, Angel's Peak, Cairn Toul, Ben Muich Dhui, and Derry Cairngorm. A little farther off, Beinn a' Bhuid and Ben Avon with its Barns complete the tale. From Càrn a' Chlamain the Barns of Beinn Mheadhoin are also seen. Away among the Deeside hills, the round top of Morven is easily singled out. Then at the head of Glen Tilt the telescope brings Falar Lodge into view, nestling at the feet of its guardian angels—Carn Bhac, Beinn Iutharn Mhor, Carn an Righ, and Glas Thulachan. Over the shoulder of this last the summit of Creag Leacach shows up, while through the gap between Carn Bhac and Beinn Iutharn Mhor, the highest point, Cac Carn Beag, of Lochnagar, surrounded by its satellites, comes into view. From Càrn a' Chlamain, however, Lochnagar is seen peeping over the north slope of Beinn Iutharn Mhor. On the other side of Glen Tilt, directly opposite, we have the Beinn a' Ghlo tops spread out in all their grandness, and, although I believe it is from the south that the finest view of this interesting group is obtained, still, the view from these points, across the deep and narrow Glen Tilt, is also very impressive. Far away on the southern horizon, through the gap between Carn Liath and the second top—I won't attempt to spell it—the Lomonds of Fife, with their connecting ridge, 50 miles away, may be seen on a good day from Càrn a' Chlamain. I myself have never seen them from Beinn Dearg, as the weather conditions were never favourable in this direction. Next on the list is Ben Vrackie, keeping watch over the famous "Pass"; then, between that point and Farragon, we have a wide

gap, devoid of any noteworthy tops, but filled in with undulating ridges. In front lie the long hummocky ridge leading up to Farragon, then the hills bounding Strath Braan, to north and south, and finally the far-off Ochils. Over the peculiarly shaped Farragon Hill rises the summit plateau of Ben Chonzie; then a little to the right of that may be seen just the point of Ben Vorlich. Now we have Schichallion—cutting a very sorry figure indeed from this quarter—and Carn Mairg, overtopped by Ben Lawers, all bright and smiling, having just emerged from the rain clouds. Farther round is the bulky Beinn a' Chuallaich, above Kinloch-Rannoch, and right over that hill the eye encounters first Beinn Heasgarnich and then Ben More, Am Binnean, and Beinn Laoigh. Over the right shoulder of Chuallaich the great array of tops encircling Loch Lyon almost defies identification, but just to the right of these Cruachan can be made out. Then comes the Black Mount group, with Clachlet and Stob Ghabhar in the van, and Ben Starav behind; just beside these and helping to swell the crowd are the Buchailles of Etive, overtopped by Bidean nam Bian. Another important summit, much nearer than these, now claims our attention, namely Ben Alder—a veritable giant towering above the monotonous uplands bounding Drumochter. Between Ben Alder and the great undulating Monadh Liaths, Creag Meaghaidh looks down on Loch Laggan; beyond these are others, strangers to me, unless perhaps Mam Soul and Cairn Eige; but nearer at hand, only ten miles off, the round summit of Meall na Cuaich is much more easily distinguished. This, then, completes our circuit, and, although it has been a fairly extensive one, it still falls far short of the actual vista obtainable from these hills.