



CHAPTER IV.

THE STELVIO UNDER SNOW.

Our plans for the Ortler district—We start for Santa Catarina—A fair porter—The hotel is closed—Our porter conducts us to a small inn of uninviting appearance—Cupelin's three pieces of information—We are driven back to Bormio by bad weather—We decide to reach Tyrol by the Stelvio—We take a carriage and are joined by two Germans who are going our way—Cupelin's treasures—The fourth cantonière—The carriage can go no further—Difficulty in procuring porters—We speak our mind—At last we get under weigh—Our German companions—I am forced to make the tracks—My maid faints, and my hands are frost-bitten—Preparations for spending the night on the Stelvio—A primitive lodging—Cupelin cuts up the staircase for firewood.

I WAS staying at Bormio, in northern Italy, and wished to do a little climbing in the Ortler group