

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held on February 3, 1891, Mr. HORACE WALKER, *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club:—Messrs. Samuel Aitken, Alfred Bird, Robert A. Danvers, Charles Ashworth James, Maurice Paillon, and Wilberforce N. Tribe.

The PRESIDENT mentioned the serious loss which the Club and all mountaineers had sustained by the death of Herr Gottlieb Studer, whose name was a household word with all who took an interest in the history of the exploration of the Alps, and who, as a traveller and author, had largely added to our knowledge of them. Herr Studer had been an honorary member of our Club for a period of thirty years.

The HONORARY SECRETARY AND TREASURER presented the accounts for the year 1890, which were, after a brief discussion, unanimously passed. At the suggestion of Mr. WALLROTH, it was agreed that a suitable cabinet for the collection of photographs, which is assuming large dimensions, should be purchased.

Mr. J. H. WICKS read a paper: 'Two Peaks and a Centre.'

Mr. W. CECIL SLINGSBY read a paper: 'A Night Adventure on the Dent Blanche.'

An animated discussion on the subject of both papers followed, in which the PRESIDENT, Messrs. CONWAY, HOLZMANN, FRESHFIELD, WILSON, BUTLER, SCHUSTER, NASH, SOLLY, MACDONALD, MORSE, and others took part. While some members held that Mr. Slingsby's party ought under the existing conditions as to weather and the state of the mountain to have turned back sooner and not completed their ascent, the majority of the speakers maintained that no unjustifiable risk had been run; but the unanimous opinion was that parties without guides especially should pay the greatest possible attention to the state of the weather.

With regard to the district described by Mr. Wicks, it was suggested that a Committee on the nomenclature of the various peaks might be appointed.

A cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Wicks and Slingsby for their most interesting and excellent papers.

A General Meeting of the Club was held on March 3.

Messrs. Thomas Lawrence Kesteven and Charles Hawker Liveing were balloted for and elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT said it was his painful duty to inform the meeting of the probable death of a member of the Club, Mr. J. Baumann, which, according to information received, there was too much reason to fear had occurred in Mashonaland. His loss would be regretted by all; he was a most excellent climber, and popular member.

Mr. DENT gave some particulars as to the circumstances under which, according to the latest news, Mr. Baumann was lost.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mr. Malcolm Ross, of Dunedin, had kindly offered his assistance to any member desirous of visiting the

Alps of New Zealand; also, that there was some idea of forming a New Zealand Alpine Club.

Mr. G. YELD read a paper: 'The Ascent of Basardjusi,' illustrated by a series of beautiful photographs taken by Mr. G. P. Baker, large maps, lent by the Royal Geographical Society, and numerous geological specimens.

At the conclusion of the paper Messrs. BAKER, FRESHFIELD, CONWAY, and C. E. MATHEWS spoke, and attention was drawn to the beautiful series of photographs which Signor Sella had succeeded in producing during his prolonged journey in the Caucasus last summer.\* Reference was also made to the numerous still-unexplored districts, and to the moderate cost and comparative safety of travel in the Caucasus.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT, the thanks of the meeting were unanimously voted to Mr. Yeld for his interesting paper.

A General Meeting of the Club was held on April 7. Mr. William Michael Spence was balloted for and elected a member of the Club.

The PRESIDENT announced that a portrait of M. de Saussure had been presented to the Club by his grandson; also, that Mr. Dent had presented the Club with two very beautiful photographs taken by him last winter.

Mr. WALTER LEAF read a paper: 'Climbing with a Hand Camera,' illustrated by a most interesting series of lantern-slides from negatives obtained by him with his hand camera.

Very beautiful views taken by Mr. Eccles, Mr. Dent, and Mr. A. Topham were also shown on the screen.

Mr. G. R. BAKER, on behalf of Mr. J. H. Steward, attended and exhibited the Labbez Telemeter, described in Captain Marshall Hall's article on 'Glacier Observation' ('Alpine Journal,' No. 111).

A short discussion on Mr. Leaf's paper took place, and the proceedings terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to him for his admirable and amusing paper, and to the other members who had exhibited their photographs.

The following circular has been issued by the special committee appointed for the purpose indicated in it:—

Alpine Club, 8, St. Martin's Place, March 4th, 1891.

#### EQUIPMENT FOR MOUNTAINEERS.

Sir,—We have been charged by the Committee of the Alpine Club to make inquiries with a view to preparing a comprehensive report upon the equipment of mountaineers. Will you kindly send us such *precise* information as you may have acquired from your own practical experience? We have divided the subject into three main sections concerned with the needs of—(1) Ordinary climbers in the Alps, (2) Guideless climbers, and (3) Climbers intending to explore remote

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\* These, which have been on view at the Royal Geographical Society during April, have doubtless been seen by many members of the Club; one of whom, competent to speak, describes them as a 'grand collection.' We shall hope to give a more detailed account in the August number.

mountain ranges. We have subdivided each section under four headings—(a) Kit, (b) Food, (c) Photography and Instruments, and (d) Special.

It is particularly requested that answers be written on one side of the paper only, and that information as to different headings (1a, 3d, and the like) be written on different slips of paper, with the reference number and letter inserted in the top left corner of each sheet (for convenience of classification). Whenever possible, please give accurately the name and address of the tradesman or firm from whom a particular object referred to can be purchased.

You are also requested to state whether you are willing to send any objects or instruments, you may have occasion to refer to, to the Club rooms for inspection by the sub-committee.

Kindly address your answer to Mr. J. H. Wicks, at 38 St. Luke's Road, London, W.

We are, yours faithfully,

C. T. DENT, W. M. CONWAY, J. H. WICKS.

1. Ordinary Climbers in the Alps:—

- (a) *Kit*.—It may be assumed that information about axes, ropes, and boots is not required. Precise information, on the other hand, is asked for as to Rucksacks, wine-bags, gloves, gaiters, anklets, crampons, sleeping-bags, and any small portable appliances of proved utility.
- (b) *Food and Cooking Apparatus, Canteens*.—The names and descriptions of all manner of portable foods and where to buy them (both in England and in the towns in the neighbourhood of the Alps).
- (c) *Photography and Instruments*.—Information of every kind will be valuable under this head. For instance, the best type and make of camera, for view and instantaneous work, varieties and make of lens, best kinds of plates and films for summer and winter work. Methods of packing plates. Photometers. Special appliances. In every possible instance approximate prices should be quoted.
- (d) *Special*.—Most climbers have some appliances or methods of their own which they consider valuable. We hope they will take this opportunity of sharing their notions with the whole climbing fraternity.

2. Guideless Climbers:—

- (a) *Kit*.—What modifications in the kit are recommended for guideless climbers, to whom weight is of special importance?
- (b, c, d), *see 1b, 1c, 1d.*

3. Exploring Climbers:—

- (a) *Kit*.—What modifications upon or additions to the ordinary kit are advisable? What tools should be carried? Precise information as to tents, sleeping-bags for great heights, sacks, medicine, clothes, and the like is required.

- (b) *Food and Cooking Apparatus.*—If a party has to carry provisions for several days, what is the best form of food to carry?
- (c) *Photography and Instruments.*—See 1c. What are the most portable instruments and the least likely to get out of repair?
- (d) *Special.*—See 1d.

*Errata in the February Number.*

Page 271, lines 15, 16, for '5 per cent.' and '3 per cent.' read '50 per cent.' and '30 per cent.'

Page 271, line 20, after '400 francs' add 'per annum for three years.'

" 272, " 13, for 'Tantarin' read 'Tartarin.'

" 275, " 21, for 'Herr C. Seelig' read 'Herr August N&F'