

pictures of the year. It is an impressive and admirable piece of work by the hand of an artist not previously known from any exhibits at the Alpine Winter Meeting. His portfolios doubtless contain leaves that we should gladly have an opportunity of seeing.

The large landscape of the Isles of Loch Lomond and the surrounding hills (515), by Mr. F. Goodall, R.A., demands no praise. There is a pleasing softness and ideality about it, but of a cheap and commonplace kind. Mr. Sidney Cooper, R.A., contributed an example of a fossil style of landscape art in his view of Land's End (1,136), where there are Cuyyp-like cows standing in the calm sea, while a little further off a yacht is racing before a merry breeze; the Longships rock appears to be formed of well-squared masonry.

It is pleasant to be able to mention in this place a landscape by that charming artist, Mr. Alfred East, entitled, 'Reedy Mere and Sunset Hills' (142). The hills, indeed, are but a graceful line along the far horizon, but the picture could not exist without them. Hills similarly, but less prettily, introduced form an essential part of Sir J. E. Millais' 'Lingering Autumn' (293) and Mr. MacWhirter's 'Highland Bay.' The Alps behind Venice, seen from the Lido, are conventionally rendered in a picture by Mr. Bryan Hook (536). Mr. J. Farquharson contributed a pleasant study of Nile scenery, in which the fine wall of cliffs that the limestone Arab chain opposes to the west is bathed in the pleasant sunshine and soft atmosphere of Egypt. Finally, I may be permitted to refer to the delicious background of blue hills, crested with distant clouds (or snow), forming the far margin of the African valley into which the Panthers look in Mr. J. M. Swan's most beautiful painting (110).

W. M. CONWAY.

SIGNOR SELLA'S 1890 CAUCASIAN PHOTOGRAPHS.

THE encouragement given to Signor Vittorio Sella, by the award of the Murchison grant of the Royal Geographical Society, has been productive of another very complete collection of photographs, which formed an attractive feature at the last winter exhibition of the Club. It will be remembered that Signor Sella took with him three Italian porters, and spent the greater part of last summer, from July to October, photographing in detail the peaks, passes, glaciers, forests, village architecture, and inhabitants of the central chain of the Caucasus. The party visited and photographed amongst three distinct races: the Ossetes and Aryans, mostly Christians; the Tartars, or Mohammedans; and, lastly, the Georgians. The work, therefore, is of interest ethnologically as well as topographically. As far as concerns ourselves, it is difficult amidst so many representations of ice and snow to select the best picture or group of pictures. Some good judges give the palm to the panoramic views of the Adai Choch district, and from Mr. Freshfield we understand that in 'two districts Signor Sella's work renders possible a reconstruction of the map of the Adai Choch, and the making of a map of the Suanetian glaciers, two

of which—those descending towards Mestia, among the most important in the whole chain—are left out in the five-verst map, and in the maps, such as that in Reclus' "Géographie Universelle," unfortunately founded upon it, which has done so much to spread among geographers a wrong idea of the characteristic features of the Caucasus.*

The views are about three hundred,* the larger proportion being 16 × 12 inches, whilst the smaller size are about 7 × 5 inches. They are all silver prints, and are very clear and sharp, the lenses used being of extraordinary power. Signor Sella possesses the art of manipulating the negatives in the dark room to a marvellous degree. It is no easy matter to climb with a camera of the size of a 16 × 12-inch negative to an altitude of 13–14,000 feet, and then, having mounted guard, wait the opportunity of catching the subject of the picture free from cloud. Signor Sella must be endowed with an abundance of patience, a quality Mr. Donkin laid down as being above all things of the greatest necessity in the Caucasus.

It may be affirmed that Signor Sella has never produced a more artistic series of photographs.

G. P. B.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB was held on May 5, 1891, Mr. HORACE WALKER, *President*, in the chair.

The PRESIDENT referred to the new edition of Ball's 'Alpine Guide,' which is being prepared under the direction of the committee, and invited the cordial co-operation of all members of the Club in the work.

Mr. PERCY THOMAS read a paper: 'Mountaineering in Southern Colorado.'

Mr. L. NORMAN NERUDA read a paper: 'Three New Ascents in the Bernina Range.'

Mr. J. BRYCE, M.P., made some interesting remarks about travel and scenery in Colorado; the latter, though suffering from a want of snow and ice, had great beauty and charm, and presented delightful effects, resembling those of the East, which he ascribed to the great clearness of the atmosphere. One of the features of the country was that there were about forty or fifty peaks attaining a height of about 14,000 feet, but not a single one that reached 14,600. Travelling was easier in the mountains of Colorado than in the Selkirks, where the forests were most difficult to penetrate, owing to the quantity of undergrowth. Colorado presented a curious kind of society, which, however, he would hardly describe as dangerous. His rule was always to preserve a calm exterior; he had never found it necessary to carry a revolver, and had never experienced any difficulty. He further referred to the great difficulty of breathing felt by both residents and travellers, mostly before reaching a height of 9,000 feet.

* A catalogue with prices may be obtained at Messrs. Spooner's.