

from most of the exaggerations of tourists. But he is bound also to note that winter mountaineering is hardly the peculiar and personal revelation the authoress seems to fancy it, that its earlier history might have been alluded to in less passing fashion, and that her own experience of the Alps hardly justifies the confidence with which the law is throughout laid down to her readers. He is grieved to find the Aiguille du Géant going so rapidly down the inevitable Peak's Progress (from *Inaccessible* to *Lady's Mountain*) as to form the fourth day in one of Mrs. Burnaby's ideal high-level routes—though he must admit that the prophecy has been too speedily justified. And he has to protest against such new forms and genders as 'Tête Noir,' 'Aiguille Vert,' 'Salanches,' 'Marquinaz,' 'Gorne Glacier,' and 'Monte Rose.'

Enough has been said to show the manner of 'Winter Mountaineering.' As to its substance, it opens with an account of a night out, spent on the Grandes Jorasses after a successful ascent of that peak in the summer of 1882. The winter expeditions that follow have already been summarised in our last number, and need not therefore be again catalogued. They form a remarkable series, and that they were carried through without serious mishap says much for the judgment and skill of Mrs. Burnaby's guides, as well as for her own perseverance. But she has chosen to record them in a volume which is probably the flimsiest and most trivial that has ever been offered to the alpine public.

*Auf den Oetzthaler Fernern.* Von Julius Meurer. (Vienna: R. Spies.)

In these articles, reprinted from the 'Oesterreichische Alpenzeitung,' Herr Meurer gives a lively and interesting account of three days' wanderings in the glaciers near Vent, comprising an ascent of the Wildspitze, and one of the Weisskugel by a new and direct route from the Langtauferer Thal. The party were lucky in their weather, and Herr Meurer contrives to make his readers share in the enjoyment of himself and his companions. Herr Diener appends a useful alpine history of the two peaks, the giants of the Oetzthal group.

## OBITUARY.

### MR. WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE.

IN Mr. William Spottiswoode, the late President of the Royal Society, the Alpine Club has lost one of its most distinguished and earliest members. Mr. Spottiswoode was elected in 1858 with Professor Tyndall. His chief qualification was scientific, for he did not take any prominent share in the work of alpine exploration. But he had two years previously visited Eastern Russia and the Ural Mountains, and described his travels in 'A Tarantasse Journey.'

He subsequently became Honorary Secretary of the Geographical Society, to whose 'Journal' he contributed a paper on 'Typical Mountain Ranges,' which was thus described by one of his audience, who, referring to the established opinion of M. Elie de Beaumont, that there have been successive epochs of elevation of the earth's crust, each of which produced some evidence of the direction of its action, said:—

'An inquiry such as Mr. Spottiswoode has entered upon will, by the aid of high mathematical analysis, lead us to this kind of conclusion. We are looking at a range of mountains; we examine not merely their present direction, but their magnitude and weight. We consider, therefore, each range in its length, its height, and consequently its magnitude and weight, and by the calculus of probability we arrive at the conclusion that some particular line exhibits the direction in which the greatest amount of force has been applied; and that is assumed as the typical direction, or the direction in which nature has applied an elevatory force in the greatest and most general way.'

There is no need here to add to the many and weighty tributes which have been paid to the services to his generation both as a man of science and a philanthropist which have won for Mr. Spottiswoode a place among the honoured tombs of Westminster Abbey.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

*General Meeting, May 1, 1883.*—Professor BONNEY, F.R.S., in the chair. Mr. CHARLES R. SHORE was elected a member of the Club. Professor BRYCE, D.C.L., M.P., delivered an address upon 'North America as a Field for Mountaineering,' which was illustrated by large maps kindly lent for the occasion by the Royal Geographical Society. A discussion followed in which Mr. CRAUFURD GROVE, the Rev. F. H. HANAY, Messrs. HOWARD BARRETT, W. R. BROWNE, BAILLIE GROHMAN, and C. T. DENT took part. A cordial vote of thanks, on the motion of the President, was accorded to Professor BRYCE.

*General Meeting, June 5, 1883.*—Professor BONNEY, F.R.S., in the chair. The Rev. THOMAS J. PROUT was elected a member of the Club. Mr. CLINTON DENT read a paper on 'Mountaineering in the Old Style,' giving an account of some expeditions made in the Saas district in 1871, and more particularly of the first ascent of the Sudlenz or Sudlenend Spitz by the author in that year. The paper was illustrated by a sketch map and by an enlarged copy of one of Mr. Donkin's photographs of the Saas Grat from the summit of the Dom, in which the Sudlenz Spitz is very clearly depicted. The PRESIDENT, Mr. GROVE, and others made some remarks at the conclusion of the paper, and an enthusiastic vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. DENT.

ANNUAL SUMMER DINNER, June 6.—The annual summer dinner was held at the 'Ship Hotel,' Greenwich, at 7 o'clock, about 30 members of the Club and their friends being present. The weather was fine, and the special steamboat which had for the first time been provided for the occasion was accordingly patronised by the great majority of the members both in going and returning from Greenwich, and much appreciated.

#### *Errata in last Number.*

Page 318, line 9 from bottom, for 'dreary' read 'heavy.'  
 " 242, " 6 " " " " 'Grandes Montées' read 'Grands Montets.'