

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

On Tuesday, December 18, 1883, the Annual General Meeting was held, Professor BONNEY, F.R.S. (President), in the chair. The Rev. C. J. THOMPSON and Messrs. T. BARRETT-LENNARD, HENRY COCKBURN, F. DAVIES, J. P. FARRAR, PAUL PERRET (C.A.F.), and HERBERT WILSON were elected members of the Club.

The PRESIDENT announced that Professor JULIUS VON HAAST, F.R.S., C.M.G., had accepted the honorary membership of the Club.

The following gentlemen were then unanimously elected officers of the Club for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. F. CRAUFURD GROVE; Vice-Presidents, Mr. C. T. DENT and Mr. G. E. FOSTER. New members of Committee, Messrs. F. E. BLACKSTONE and G. H. SAVAGE, M.D., in the places of Messrs. James Eccles and Eustace Hulton, who retired by rotation. The Honorary Secretary and the remaining members of the Committee, being eligible, were unanimously re-elected. Mr. GROVE, who was most warmly received, briefly thanked the Club for the honour which had been conferred upon him.

Mr. F. A. WALLROTH next proposed, and Mr. C. T. DENT seconded, the following alteration in the Club Rules:—That Rule I. shall be as follows: ‘The Club shall be called the Alpine Club, and the number of ordinary members shall not exceed 500.’

A discussion ensued, in the course of which the following gentlemen (amongst others) spoke:—The Rev. H. B. GEORGE, Messrs. LESLIE STEPHEN, WM. MATHEWS, C. G. HEATHCOTE, W. MARCET, F.R.S., HARDY, E. HULTON, D. W. FRESHFIELD, and C. E. MATHEWS.

Mr. WALKER HARTLEY moved as an amendment, ‘That the discussion be postponed until the next annual general meeting of the Club,’ which was seconded by Dr. Taylor. The Meeting divided upon the amendment, which was lost, the numbers being—For the amendment, 24; Against, 40.

The original resolution was then put and lost. For the Resolution, 23; Against, 44.

The resolution being one which affected the rules of the Club, would have required a majority of at least two-thirds of the members to carry it, and it will thus be seen that the opinion of the Club was decidedly against imposing any limit upon its numbers. At the same time the feeling of the meeting seemed, as far as could be gathered, to be in favour of insisting upon a very high standard of mountaineering qualification amongst candidates for the Club.

Mr. JAMES HEELIS brought forward a motion with reference to the establishment of a charitable fund for the relief of guides, such fund to be under the control of the Committee. On the suggestion of Mr. DENT that the details of the scheme should first be submitted to and considered by the Committee, Mr. HEELIS withdrew his motion for the present.

The PRESIDENT then stated that he had a communication to make to the Club on behalf of the Committee, which he was sure would be received with as much regret as it was made. Most of the members present would be aware that the conduct of a party of Englishmen at

the time of the melancholy accident on the Morteratsch Glacier on August 25 last had been sharply criticised both at home and abroad. As one of the party was a member of the Alpine Club, the Committee had felt it their duty to investigate the case, and, after considering the documents bearing upon it, and, after having also had an interview with the member in question, had unanimously passed the following resolution, which they now had to lay before the Club:—

‘The Committee having considered the documents bearing upon the death of Comte de la Baume Pluvinel upon Piz Bernina on August 25 last, and having heard the explanations of Mr. E. H. Fison with respect thereto, are unanimously of opinion that he ought to have proceeded to the scene of the accident, and that, under the circumstances, he should not have continued the ascent of the Bernina.’

The PRESIDENT then delivered an Address to the Meeting, dealing with the various incidents of his three years’ tenure of office, at the conclusion of which a vote of thanks to him was moved by Mr. C. E. MATHEWS, seconded by Mr. DOUGLAS FRESHFIELD, and carried unanimously. The PRESIDENT, who briefly replied, was received with great enthusiasm by the members present on this his last appearance in the chair.

The proceedings, which had been of a very unusual length, did not terminate till shortly after eleven p.m.

The Annual Winter Picture Exhibition and Dinner of the Club took place on the afternoon and evening of Wednesday, December 19, at Willis’s Rooms. The show of pictures (of which a detailed account will be found on another page), though not so numerous, was in quality perhaps above the standard of former exhibitions, while the weather was so unusually fine and clear that up to 3.30 p.m. it was hardly necessary to supplement the day by artificial light. Through the liberality of a number of private members of the Club, the band of the Grenadier Guards attended during the afternoon, and, under the leadership of Mr. Dan Godfrey, performed a capital selection of music. For the first time also on these occasions, ‘Afternoon Tea’ was provided by the Club for its guests—an innovation which seemed greatly appreciated, especially by those who came from some distance. These reasons, no doubt, all contributed to the popularity of the exhibition, which was even more numerously attended than last year, and was, indeed, almost inconveniently crowded at times.

The Annual Dinner was held at 7 o’clock, the chair being taken by Professor Bonney, F.R.S. (President of the Club). The numbers were the largest yet recorded in the annals of the Club, upwards of 170 members and their guests being present, amongst the latter of whom were included Professor Huxley (President of the Royal Society), Professor Tyndall, F.R.S., Professor Foster, Sec. R.S., the Astronomer Royal, Mr. James Knowles (Editor of the ‘Nineteenth Century’), Dr. Ogle, &c. &c.

Errata in last Number.

- Page 335, line 3 from the bottom in the text, *for M. Baline read M. Balme.*
 .. 343, .. 1, *read but one traveller has lost his life.*
 .. 358, .. 5, *for right read left.*