

scented Alpine orchid.) Herr Heer's, on the other hand, are serious novels. They are full of the life of the Alpine regions and of the influence on character of the life and of the scenic ruggedness. There is climbing and hunting, good description of scenery, and interesting drawing of character.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MOUNTAINEERING IN CANADA.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

SIR,—In 'Munsey's Magazine' for March 1901 there appeared an interesting article dealing with the exploration of the 'New Alpine Playground' in the Canadian Rockies and the Selkirks, a region which is now beginning to attract, very deservedly, the attention of European and American climbers. In this paper there occurs the following passage: 'Among mere lovers of the sport alpinists from Europe were first upon the scene—the Rev. W. S. Green and the Rev. H. Swanzy, of the Alpine Club, in 1888.' Professor Ch. E. Fry, the writer of the article, has inadvertently done me a little injustice in giving priority to my fellow members of the Alpine Club, for I was quite six years earlier upon the scene. Beginning in 1882, when I explored the southern parts of the Selkirks, I spent until the year 1890 annually many weeks, and in several of these years the entire summer and autumn, in that highly picturesque mountain land. Attracted at first by the capital *Haplocerus* shooting and the superb scenery, as well as by the primeval condition of the whole Kootenay country, I subsequently interested myself in the development of the district, acquiring a large land concession from the British Columbia Government. While devoting myself to sport I did a good deal of climbing, and though, as I freely acknowledge in my *Fifteen Years' Sport and Life in the Hunting Grounds of Western America*, I can lay no claim to have scaled any first-class peaks where extensive ice slopes had to be crossed, I ascended a number of second and third rate mountains upon which I am convinced no white man's foot had ever rested. I did almost all my climbing with Indians—the Flatbows and the Upper Kootenays—who were then still the best natives for mountain work I have met in any part of North America; but, as it was impossible to prevail upon them to put foot on ice, and I was unprovided with the necessary accessories for really serious mountain exploration, I had to content myself with rock work.

The Rev. Green and the Rev. Swanzy, as Professor Fay states, visited the Selkirks first in 1888, and they spent several weeks in climbing the peaks near the Canadian Pacific Railway, but being unprovided with suitable porters and other means of transportation they did not get further than some seven miles (in a straight line)

from the railway. I met them, as Rev. Green in his *Among the Selkirk Glaciers* mentions, just after the conclusion of their expedition, too late to assist them with any advice which my six years' experience in these mountains might have enabled me to extend to them. In 1888 it was easy enough to get to one's starting point by rail, but in 1882, 1883, and 1884 it was a very different thing, for the Selkirks were until the last-named year a perfectly wild country. In 1882 there was in the whole of West Kootenay district, a region twice the size of Wales, not a single white settler nor a single house of any kind, and it took me much longer to reach Kootenay Lake by canoe and horseback travel from Helena, in Montana, than it would to-day from London. In 1882 no white man had ever crossed the Selkirks from east to west, Major Roger, after whom the pass used by the Canadian Pacific Railway is called, being the explorer who first achieved this feat in 1883.

To-day the 'New Alpine Playground' can be reached from London in eleven or twelve days, from the south by the Great Northern, and from the north by the Canadian Pacific Railway; and what was then West Kootenay is now the scene of some of the richest mining in America. Scores of steamers, several railways, telephones, and electric light and power undertakings have made the country round Kootenay Lake one of the most attractive fields for mining enterprise, and the population totals some 20,000 where eighteen years ago there was not a single resident white man—an achievement of which Canada can be proud.

Apologising for the length of this communication,

Yours obediently,

W. A. BAILLIE-GROHMAN,
Alpine Club, 1874.

[NOTE.—In confirmation of Mr. Baillie-Grohman's letter we may mention the fact that the Officials of the British Columbia Government have named after him (see p. 420) a stream, a mountain, and a post office. We have also seen a letter from Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, Vice-President of the United States (Honorary A.C.), to Mr. Baillie-Grohman, in which he says, 'When I was in the Kootenay country I heard much of you, often in exasperating fashion, for I ran across two men who had been out with you, and who, whenever I began to make bad weather of it over the slide rock and through down timber, would begin to recite your feats as a walker and hunter.'—EDITOR *Alpine Journal*.]

THE EARLIEST ROCK-CLIMB.

To the Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—Now that the annexation by Alpinists of the Himâlayas has well set in it may specially interest your readers to learn that a *traversée* in that region constitutes what may safely be considered as the most ancient record of rock-climbing in existence.

Many of them will know of the great treasury of Indian folklore entitled the 'Jātaka, or Birth Stories of the Buddha,' and of how these old tales, to the number of about six hundred or more, were adapted by the Buddhists to lend point and attractiveness to their doctrines, especially to that of Karma, the general Indian tenet of effective action working through countless rebirths. As a Buddhist compilation the 'Jātaka' may be said, from internal evidence, to date approximately from the age of Alexander the Great or that of his immediate successors. But the stories themselves are far and indefinitely older. One-half of them, translated from the Pali by four or five scholars, has been published by the Cambridge University Press. At the present rate of publication the story I am referring to will not appear in English garb for another three or four years.

It is named the 'Chaddanta Jātaka, or Six-Tusk Birth Story,' and tells of a mighty herd of mythical elephants believed to dwell in the Himālayas in the midst of luxurious vegetation. The future Buddha is born as their leader—a majestic white elephant, six-tusked. One of his two queen elephants grows jealous at the apparently greater devotion of her lord to the other queen, and vows to avenge herself on him in her next birth. Re-born as a king's daughter, she becomes the consort of the King of Benares, and then has reminiscence of her vow. Affecting to be seized by the craving of a woman with child, she tells her husband she must get the tusks of the Chaddanta elephant king or die, and so induces him to muster a host of hunters beneath her window. From these she selects a brawny Hercules named Sonuttara, and gives him full instructions how he is to discover this wondrous creature, overcoming his fears by the promise of the tithes from five villages. How he accomplishes the journey I translate, condensing somewhat, from the original, as follows:—

'And when he had heard her Sonuttara consented, saying, "Very good, lady; I will kill the elephant and fetch you his tusks." Then she, well pleased, paid him 1,000 (kahāpanas), and bade him go home and get ready to start in seven days' time. Then she sent for a smith, and gave him this order: "Good sir, we want an axe, an adze, a mattock, a spade, a mallet, a billhook for chopping down canes and brushwood, a sickle, a metal staff and stanchions, and a grappling iron. Make all these quickly and bring them." Next she commanded a leather-worker, saying, "Good sir, it is your business to make us a leather sack capable of containing a kumbha. We want also a leather rope, straps, gloves, and shoes, and a leather umbrella. Make all these quickly and bring them." And both of them did so. And she had provisions prepared, and all other requisites for his journey—fire-drills, and so on. And when she had stowed everything into the leather sack, both the tools and the provisions—namely, a bag of barley meal, and so forth—the whole weighed a kumbha (about 1 cwt.).

'Sonuttara, after making his own preparations, went on the seventh day and waited on the queen. And she said, "All that

you will require on your journey has been got ready. Take this knapsack." And he, being as strong as an elephant, lifted it up as if it were a bag of sweets, and fixing it on his loins left his hands free. She bestowed a maintenance fund on his children, informed the king, and dismissed him. Saluting the king and queen, the hunter descended from the palace, mounted a chariot, and, with a great escort, departed from the city. Passing through towns and villages, he came to the frontier, and there turned back the country folk, and entered the forest, escorted by the border folk. When he had reached the end of human pathways he turned back the border folk and went on alone. For thirty yojanas ($= 30 \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ miles) he penetrated through seventeen sorts of jungle, reaping and chopping a path, felling trees, and digging out roots. In a bamboo jungle he fashioned a ladder, mounted a bamboo cluster, and swung himself along above from stem to stem. In a marsh jungle he took two planks, and laid them down one after the other as he went; and to cross a watery jungle he made a canoe. Finally he came to the foot of a mountain precipice.

'Here he tied his grappling iron to his rope, and, throwing it aloft, hooked the rock with it, and climbed up. He then drove his brazen staff, shod with diamond, into the rock, and into the cleft hammered a stanchion. Getting on to this, he hauled up his grappling iron, and again hooked it aloft. (Going up and driving in the second stanchion,) the rope hanging down, he descended by it, and making fast the lower stanchion to the rope, he, clutching the latter in his left hand, and taking his mallet in the right, struck at the rope till the stanchion was extracted. Then he climbed up again. On this wise he ascended to the summit, and traversing descended by similar methods. Hammering in a stanchion at the top of the first ridge, he wound his rope on to it, and, fastening his knapsack on to the rope, and sitting in the knapsack, he went down, unwinding the rope like a spider paying out its web. Some say that he caught the wind as well with his umbrella, descending like a bird.

'Thence he proceeded to cross six more mountain ranges, the last and greatest being the glorious peak *Suvannapassa* ($=$ Côte d'Or). Finally from the Fairies' Rock he looked down on the base of the mountains, and saw afar the great banyan grove with its thousands of pillared stems, in colour like a cloud. This was the haunt of the mythical elephants, whose white leader he, in ignoble fashion (literally, not in Aryan form), had come to slay.'

The plucky climber succeeds in his quest, and in a most sportsmanlike fashion shoots the monarch he has entrapped in a pit with poisoned arrows. The suffering elephant converses magnanimously with his slayer, and by his insight discerns the identity and motive of the vindictive instigatrix. He himself with his trunk takes the hunter's saw and saws off his tusks, dying thereupon with serenity. By the power of his virtue he causes the hunter to return in seven days, the journey out and the chase

having occupied seven years. But the tokens of the great dead awake remorseful memories in the queen, and she dies of a broken heart.

It is clear that our hunter is not climbing on any very elevated *niveau*. There is no allusion to snow or ice. The ascents were apparently conceived to have been effected in some region abounding in gorges or small dolomitic ranges. As a pure piece of rock work they seemed to me not so bad, especially when the amount of ironmongery the man carried is borne in mind—worthy to rank him next to Alice's White Knight. But there must have been a goodly number of 'stanchions' expended on those descents, unless there was such an Oriental profusion of that leather rope as would have put to the blush the yards exacted by Dolomites and the Aiguille du Géant. Anyway he seems to have managed the unwinding less like a spider than an Alpinist, since he is not said on descending to make it a *corde fixe*. I do not gather that he wore putties, but the leather shoes—without nails—suggest a kind of moccasins as effective on the rock as *passi di gatto*. The resort to a parachute seems almost prophetic of new departures in Alpinism!

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

CAROLINE A. (FOLEY) RHYS DAVIDS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall on Tuesday evening, February 12, 1901, at 8.30, the Right Hon. James Bryce, *President*, in the chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club:—Messrs. W. Pelham Burn, H. K. Corning, J. Davidson, G. T. Glover, C. A. Hasler, G. W. Nettleton, H. Simms.

The PRESIDENT: 'I wish, in informing the Club that this meeting was postponed till this day in consequence of the calamity which has befallen the nation, to ask the members to pass a resolution expressive of our grief at the loss of our beloved Queen, together with one which shall convey our condolences to the King and the Royal Family, and shall at the same time express our sentiments of loyalty and attachment to him on his accession. Never in our history has the loss of any Sovereign so stirred the feelings of the nation. Seldom, indeed, in modern history has there been such an expression of genuine and deep sorrow from a whole people, sorrow which has evoked countless marks of sympathy from all parts of the world. When we recollect the long and glorious reign and the character of the life that has now closed we shall not be surprised at a manifestation of sorrow so unexampled, because in our Queen public virtues and excellences, which had been subjected to the test of a reign of sixty-four years, and had come out of that test recognised and admired by the whole world, were united with all the virtues that adorn private