

THE ACCIDENT ON THE MATTERHORN.

WE take the following letter, addressed to the Editor of the *Times*, from the *Times Weekly Edition* of August 2, 1901 :—

‘Sir,—Having seen garbled reports of the disaster on the 23rd inst. in the Italian papers, and being afraid they may be copied into the English ones, we think it as well to send the facts to you.

‘Mr. Bell and his daughter, Miss Trew, Miss Curwen, Dr. Black, Mr. Johnston, my brother Mr. A. P. Mallam, and myself had been staying in this hotel since the beginning of July.

‘At 4.30 on the morning of July 23 a party, consisting of Miss Bell, Miss Trew, Dr. Black, Mr. Johnston, and my brother, started from this hotel, with Leonard Carrell as guide, and a porter, intending to ascend the Tête du Lion. This is a 4-hrs. climb, and one they were quite capable of and properly equipped for. Unhappily they changed their plan *en route* and determined to ascend to the Matterhorn hut, a very difficult and dangerous expedition for which none of them had experience enough and for which, too, they were hopelessly underguided. They climbed well and reached the hut about 12 o’clock. All went well on the descent till they reached the snow traverse leading from the Col du Lion on to the Tête du Lion. Mr. Mallam, Mr. Johnston, and the porter in that order on the first rope passed this place safely, and waited on the other side for the party on the second rope. Here the order had just been changed, and Dr. Black, who had been leading, changed places with the guide, who was last and who now led, the ladies being between them. They were getting well over when one of the ladies slipped and fell, dragging the others after her. The first party, after finding out from the porter that it was impossible to reach them, hurried down for assistance. We had got anxious at the hotel at their prolonged absence, and at 3 o’clock sent another guide up to assist if necessary. However, he came down with the first party for further help. Major Wundt and his wife, who had just arrived at the hotel, kindly volunteered to go with the relief party, who were got together as quickly as possible. They found Miss Trew and the guide at 10.30 p.m., badly bruised, but alive. Mrs. Wundt spent the whole night beside Miss Trew, and she and the guide were brought down safely to the hotel the next morning. They found Miss Bell and Dr. Black both dead. They too were eventually brought down.

‘Yours faithfully,

‘W. A. MALLAM.

‘Hôtel du Mont-Cervin, Valtournanche, July 27.’

[We have omitted the last paragraph of Mr. Mallam’s letter, as it consists of criticism only.—EDITOR A. J.]