

forms the continuation of M. Gallet's articles in 'Echo des Alpes,' 1895.

There is also an article by Herr X. Imfeld, called 'Baltschiederjoch and Baltschiederthal,' in the 'Jahrbuch,' xvii., which I read with much interest. He mentions a good sheltered bivouac on the slopes of the Stockhorn—presumably on the plateau to the N.W. of Martigschüpfe and much above it. I did not see it.

The whole valley is exceedingly wild and well worth a visit, whilst the traverse of the Lötschthalerbreithorn, first done by Mr. Yeld, forms a splendid route to the Aletsch Hut or to the Belalp, and is in itself a very fine expedition which can be extended by including the Breitlauhorn.*

I ought to include in this note a mention of Mr. Freshfield's explorations of the N.E. slopes of the Bietschhorn in 1866, when he reached by a rib, well shown on the photo in 'Echo,' 1895, p. 109, the main N. arête of the mountain, and was only prevented by an icy gale from completing the ascent (cf. 'A. J.' ii. 363 and x. 21, footnote), making in revenge the first recorded passage of the Baltschiederjoch.†

IN MEMORIAM.

HORACE WALKER.

THE Alpine Club has to mourn the loss of another ex-President, for on the first day of this year Horace Walker passed away, at the age of 69 years, after eighteen months' illness, and we are the poorer by the loss of a very distinct personality of the old school.

He was born in Canada in 1838, and went to a private tutor in Canton Vaud when he was 16 years old, and later to another tutor in Germany, returning to England in 1857.

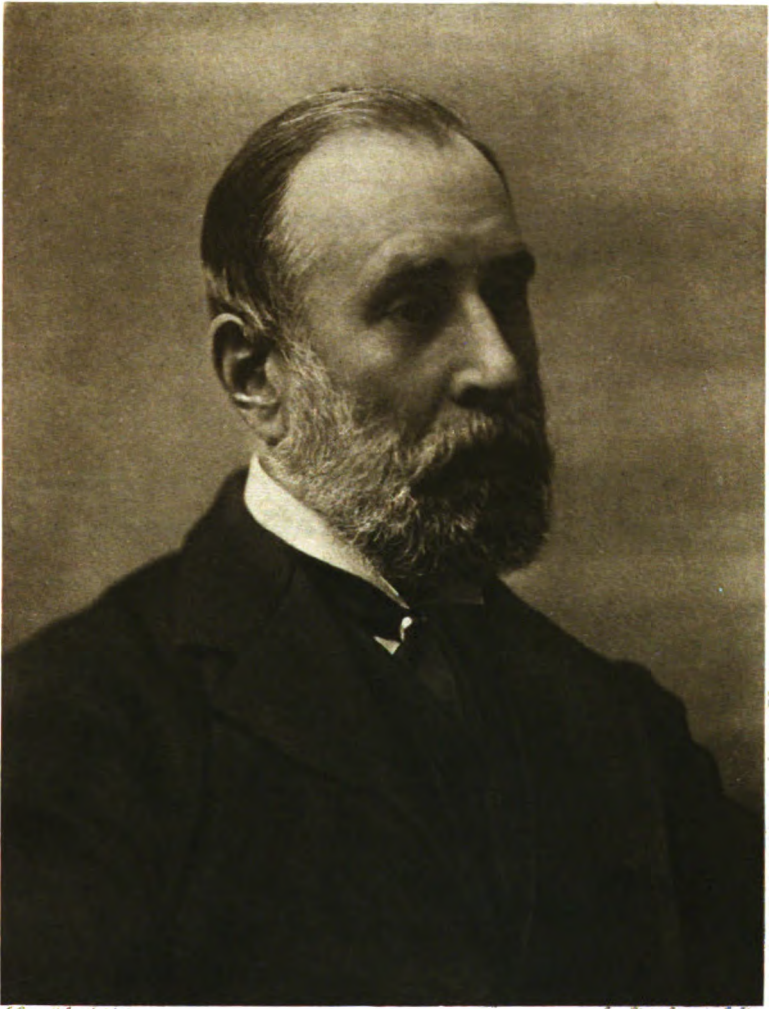
His first Swiss peak was the Vêlan, which he climbed in 1854, and he told me that it was merely by accident that he was not an original member of the Alpine Club, which he joined in 1859.

His active mountaineering extended over a period of 52 years, and his love for Switzerland was an inheritance from both parents, for his mother delighted in travelling in that country even in the

* See *A. J.* xxiii. 651. The only new portion is apparently the N.E. arête to just beyond Point 3623. The point where the S.W. arête of Lötschthalerbreithorn is attained from the E. is much nearer the Breitlauhorn than where the bottle was found. Mr. Yeld spent three hours on this S.W. arête, as did our party last year, while Maquignaz and I, in 1903, under better conditions, and aided by knowledge gained two days previously, when we had to retire in a snow-storm, took exactly 2 hours.

By the way, the Roththorn expedition, described as a New Expedition in the next paragraph (*A. J.* vol. xxiii. p. 652), is practically a reverse of the descent described in *Alpina*, 1907, No. 17. However, it is an interesting record of endurance.

† See also *Jahrbuch*, vi. and vii., for very interesting articles on this district by Dr. E. J. Häberlin, a great explorer, and *ibid.* viii. 215 *seq.* for a very detailed paper by E. v. Fellenberg, the geologist.



J. Cornwall Smith, photo.

Leon Electric Engineering Co. Inc.

Horace Walker
President, 1880-1892

old days, when comforts were few and discomforts many and hard to put up with, and he had many a happy memory to recall of the *contretemps* that befell this delightful and fastidious old lady in those early days. His father was the well-known member of the Club Frank Walker, who at the age of 59 years, in the company of his son, A. W. Moore, and George Mathews, with their two guides and friends, Melchior and Jacob Anderegg, effected the first ascent of Mont Blanc by the Brenva Ridge; and in 1871 took his daughter, Miss Lucy Walker, up the Matterhorn—a feat until then unaccomplished by any woman. The only record in the 'Alpine Journal' of father, son, and daughter climbing together was, as far as my knowledge goes, in 1864, when they made the first ascent of the Balmhorn; but they constantly climbed together.

In the same year, with Moore and Whymper, he visited Dauphiné and climbed the Ecrins. The story of their adventures has been so well told both by Whymper and Moore that it has become an Alpine classic. The acquaintance then formed between Moore and Walker soon ripened into a long and intimate friendship, cemented by many Alpine wanderings and climbs, which only terminated with Moore's death in 1887.

1865 was also a memorable year for him, for, besides the Brenva triumph, he and Moore made amongst other first ascents those of the Gabelhorn and Piz Rosegg, and explored the Tödi and Rheinwald groups. In January 1866 they crossed the Strahlegg and Finsteraar Joch, thus establishing winter mountaineering as a recognised branch of the sport.

There were certain peaks that gave him the cold shoulder, and the Matterhorn was one of these. Being unable to accompany his father and sister in their ascent, it was many years before the opportunity came that enabled him also to conquer it. He said it was his bugbear, because any one not versed in mountaineering seemed to consider it a test case, and if you had to confess that you had not been up it would remark, 'But I understood you were a great climber.'

1874 is the date of the Caucasian expeditions, when, with Moore, Grove, and Gardiner, he climbed the western and higher peak of Elbruz.

With Moore's death the exploring impetus seemed to fade away, and the Walker we all knew appeared in the man who loved to visit the remote places of the Alps, who delighted in the valleys as well as peaks, who enjoyed a sleep in a jolting 'Einspänner' and the days spent at out of the way country inns; a man who would take his party long hours off their route for a training walk below the snow line in the remotest district of the Alps, such as the ascent of the Terglu, in Carinthia, or a hot trudge to some point of view like the Schwarzhorn, at Grindelwald. All these travels were carefully recorded in red lines on the cherished maps of many memories on which all his travels were traced.

I think his last new ascent was when he and I climbed the Dent Jaune of the Dent du Midi from the W. alone, and one of his

later guideless climbs was when, with Carr, we climbed the Bernina by the Scharfe.

He ascended the Dent Blanche when he was 64 years old, and his last snow expedition was Pollux from the lower Théodule Hut, descending by the Zwillinge Joch to Zermatt, in 1905. He remained an active mountaineer to the end, always ready to take his share in the burden and heat of the day without murmur or complaint.

He was an important member of the Club—first placed on the Committee in 1875, made a Vice-President in 1881, and he very reluctantly consented to become President in 1890. We all know how well he carried out the duties of his office. His strong sense of justice and truth, his abhorrence of anything not quite fair, his great moral courage, and his wide sympathies made him a man whose advice we valued, and whom we were proud to look up to.

This is hardly the place in which to speak at any length of the position he filled in Liverpool. He was a man charitable both in giving and doing, and the following extract from a letter received by his sister after his death from the School for the Blind in Liverpool describes so accurately the feeling entertained for him by all classes in the place he lived in, that I obtained Miss Walker's permission to quote from it:—

'His long connection with our institution made him a Nestor in its counsels. As early as 1864 he gave it his financial support, while from 1877 to the time of his death he was an industrious member of our committee, filling the office of vice-president for seventeen years and of president for nearly three years.

'It is not too much to say that the charm of his personality won for him not only the respect but the affection of his coadjutors.

'The blind have lost in him a sincere friend, who never allowed sentiment to cloud his practical common sense in the consideration of their interests.

'His fine sense of honour and entire single-heartedness gave us a standard of conduct which will not readily be forgotten.'

As a friend his loss is irreparable to those who knew him well. He was a humane, affectionate, and warm-hearted man, endearing himself to all with whom he came in contact, upright and honest in the highest degree. The longer and more intimately one knew him the more did one look up to and admire his sterling probity of mind, and the more was one attracted to his single-minded and loving nature. He was a man of wide reading and scholarly attainment, a delightful companion, not given to many words, yet full of information, and with a decidedly quaint and original way of enunciating his ideas and opinions. In his death we have to deplore the loss of a grave, courteous, and most unselfish English gentleman in the best and widest sense of the word. C. P.

'And we, to whom our age allows
Scarce space to wipe our weary brows,
Look down upon your narrow house,
Old friend, and miss you.'