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VALEDICTORY ADDRESS.

By SIR EDWARD DAVIDSON, President

(Read at the Winter Meeting, December 15, 1913.)

IT is now more than thirty years ago, whilst I was acting as Hon. Secretary of this Club on behalf of the late Mr. Clinton Dent during his absence abroad for purposes of professional study, that our then President (Mr. Charles Edward Mathews) asked me to suggest to him a subject matter for a paper which he had undertaken to read to the Club at the Annual General Meeting of 1880 on the completion of his Presidential term of office.

Much flattered by this mark of confidence from one who never was gruelled for lack of matter and seldom at a loss, I, with the proverbial rashness of youth and its disregard of consequences, promptly suggested that he could not do better than give us, in his own inimitable style, a survey of his term of office, which had been for many reasons a specially eventful one. He smiled on the idea, or, as I believe up-to-date people say now-a-days, the idea smiled on him, and he adopted it.

Little did I think what a nemesis the future had in store for me, or how 'thirty years after' I was destined, like Hamlet's engineer, to be 'hoist with my own petard.' Never in my wildest dreams had it then occurred to me that, either by the irony of fate or through some kinder cause, I should one day come to occupy this Chair; but it is always the unexpected that happens, and I am still wondering, after three years' occupation of it, how on earth I ever got here. However,

being here somehow or other, I must endeavour to discharge the difficult task that has been laid upon me to-night with as little suffering as possible to my audience and to myself.

Suggestions, like curses and chickens, come home to roost; but although, as I have explained, my martyrdom has been in a sense self-inflicted, it is certainly not self-sought, and in these circumstances I hope that it may be curtailed to the shortest period consistent with the traditions of the Club, with regard to the character and duration of the tortures to be inflicted on each successive Chief at the termination of his tenure of office, before he is permitted, purified by penance and by suffering, to attain to, and to join his predecessors in, the happy hunting grounds which are reserved for those who have passed this Chair.

In the case of your penultimate President these ordeals, as perhaps was fitting to the occasion and the personage, lasted for some days and were so protracted and severe as to almost partake of a mediæval type. He bore them as might have been expected of a mighty pillar of the Church, and emerged from them with great glory. My immediate predecessor was subjected to a somewhat mitigated form of trial, which he also endured with the stoicism of a Red Indian and the combined insensibility of an international half-back and an ex-champion of the Middle Weights. I am cast in a less heroic mould, and can only throw myself on the mercy of the assembled braves who surround this—reading desk, and plead for yet milder treatment—for something at any rate without boiling oil in it.

The three years during which I have had the honour to preside over our Club have been, in comparison with the stirring times which preceded them, rather uneventful both at home and abroad. We have held on the even tenor of our way and have pursued a tranquil and a prosperous career. Although we may not have made history, the credit and prestige of the Club have, I trust, been well maintained. Except in one most sad instance no fatal mountaineering accident has befallen any member of our Club, and indeed in this connexion I rejoice to be able to say that during the last *ten* years we have lost only three members in circumstances which could even in the most expanded sense of that expression be termed mountaineering accidents. With that one truly lamentable exception no one of our losses by death during my own term of office is to be ascribed to any danger or risk inherent in or inseparable from the practice of our noble craft,

while the good old age to which many of our comrades whom we have lost attained would seem distinctly to point to the great advantages to be derived from its continued pursuit, even into the sixth and the seventh decades, under wise and prudent precautions.

Included, however, in our heavy death-roll are no less than twelve veterans of the Old Guard, who at the time of their passing from us had been members of the Club for fifty years or more. Amongst them, I deeply regret to say, were two of the three original members who celebrated with us six years ago the Jubilee of our foundation. Of this distinguished trio Alfred Wills, to be shortly followed by Walters, was the first to cross the Great Divide; the third, Canon Llewellyn Davies, with first ascents of the Dom (1858) and of the Täschhorn (1862) to his credit, is happily still with us. That the evening of a graceful and a tranquil old age may be prolonged to him for many a year to come is the earnest wish of every member of the Club.

The names of Tuckett, that giant of the early days of mountaineering, of Milman, of Gosset, and of Graf Hans von Hallwyl—all elected in 1859—have also disappeared from our list, as have those of A. Dauney and A. Smith Stanier, who were elected in 1860. Edward Whymper (1861), whose name will always form one of the great landmarks in Alpine history, and R. Spence Watson (1862) passed away in 1911 and in 1912 respectively after a membership extending in each case to fifty years. C. G. Heathcote (1863), whose death it is my sad duty to announce to you to-night, and who at one time was Honorary Secretary of the Club, was also a member of fifty years' standing.

Of those who joined our ranks at a somewhat later date we have to mourn the premature loss of Clinton Dent, one of the most versatile of our ex-Presidents, whose familiar figure and genial presence are, and will long continue to be, sorely missed at our re-unions. By his death and that of Alfred Wills, the doyen of the Club, and might one not almost say of mountaineering, we have sustained losses that are irreparable indeed.

† Cawood and Cust, two of the famous 'three C's' who took part in the first guideless ascent of the Matterhorn, in many ways an epoch-making feat, have also passed away. Colgrove, the other member of the trio, happily is still able to answer to his name.

In 1912, that fatal year which deprived us not only of two

ex-Presidents, but of two original members of the Club, we lost, in addition to those who have already been mentioned, twelve other members, including the eminent Italian mountaineer Count Francesco Lurani (1892); the Rev. H. A. Morgan (1863), who took part with his great friend Leslie Stephen in the first passages of the Jungfraujoeh and of the Viescherjoeh; Mr. J. M. Archer Thomson, the leader *par excellence* of the Welsh school of cragsmen; Mr. Tunstall-Moore, that most brilliant mountaineer and excellent all-round sportsman; Mr. Roger Gaskell (1875), an ex-member of the Committee and in his day a magnificent walker; Mr. Hook Thorpe (1888), a well-known Cheshire mountaineer and athlete; and that lofty and noble soul Dr. Edward Adrian Wilson (1905), who, through his heroic death amid the antarctic snows, will ever live in the most cherished annals of the Anglo-Saxon race.

In this year also occurred that tragic catastrophe on the Mont Rouge de Pœuteret which deprived this Club of one of the most daring and enthusiastic of its younger members, and the University of Cambridge of one of the most brilliant and remarkable—both in achievement and in promise—of her scientific sons. The hand of destiny indeed pressed heavily on us all when it fell with fatal force on Humphrey Owen Jones.

In the past year (1913) we have lost in all only eight members, but they comprise, in addition to those who have already been mentioned, that very distinguished scientist and most genial and lovable of men, Dr. Tempest Anderson (1893), the venerable Sir Reginald Cust (1884), Mr. W. Maude (1890), and Sir Alfred East, R.A. (1899), who died at the moment when he had attained, but had not yet been actually admitted to, the rank of a full Academician.

We have also lost the oldest of our honorary members, Monsieur Gabriel Loppé (1864), who was elected 'honoris causâ' forty-nine years ago, and who leaves a gap amongst his numerous friends in the Club which must long remain unfilled.

In December 1911 another most distinguished honorary member, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, had already passed away full of years and honours at the grand old age of 94. A great leader in the world of thought and science and the most eminent botanist of his generation, he was also the pioneer of scientific exploration in the Sikkim Himalaya and the borderlands of Nepal and Tibet, and a most ardent lover of the mountains wherever they were to be found.

In spite of all these losses, to which it has been painful to have to allude, the Club has maintained, though it has practically not increased, its numbers, which stand to-night at 730. It is, I think, a matter for serious consideration whether some limit (such as, for example, 800) to our numbers might not advantageously be fixed before we actually reach it. That, however, is a matter on which I do not wish now to express any definite opinion, though it seems probable that it may be found advisable to deal with it at no very distant date, when the Club as a body would no doubt be consulted. I will only now express the hope that if such action be taken it will not be thought necessary to effect the object of limiting our numbers by increasing the standard of the mountaineering qualification which is now required for admission to the Club, and which is in my opinion sufficiently severe at present to fulfil the primary object for which it was established.

A most gratifying circumstance has been the acceptance in 1912 by His Majesty the King of the Belgians of the Honorary Membership of the Club. As His Majesty mountaineers under a *nom de montagne* which wild horses shall not wring from me, his very distinguished feats may not be so well known to the mountaineering world at large, and to this Club in particular, as they deserve to be. This, however, I trust that I may say without indiscretion, that had His Majesty been in a less exalted position and had his mountaineering qualification for ordinary membership been submitted to the Committee in the usual course, this qualification was of so ample a character that it would without doubt at once have received the favourable verdict of that body.

It is to be hoped that His Majesty's example will in due course be followed by other European Monarchs, and that Mountaineering, which is a recreation obviously suitable for those who occupy the highest places on this earth, may thus become able to contest with Royal Tennis the proud title of 'the sport of Kings.'

The Honorary Membership of the Club has also been conferred on Professor Coleman, Professor Dr. Karl Diener, and Colonel Godwin Austen.

Professor Coleman, the eminent Professor of Geology in the University of Toronto, made between 1884 and 1908 repeated journeys of exploration in the Rocky Mountains of Canada. He was the first to explore and to map the Mount Robson country and to reduce—in writing—the reputed giants Mount

Brown and Mount Hooker to their real dimensions. He is the author of a valuable work, 'The Canadian Rockies—New and Old Trails'—and was the second President of the Canadian Alpine Club. Professor Dr. Diener is Professor of Palaeontology in the University of Vienna, and President of the Geological Society in that Capital. He is a distinguished author, chiefly on geological subjects, and has travelled extensively in Kumaon and Garwhal (Central Himalaya) under the auspices of the Indian Government and of the Viennese Academy of Science, of which he is a corresponding member. He has also been a most active mountaineer, and was for several years the President of the Austrian Alpine Club.

The name of Colonel Godwin Austen, F.R.S., is a household word amongst those of the earlier Indian explorers—'verbum non amplius.—Austen.'

In September last the Italian and the Swiss Alpine Clubs, each of which was founded in 1863, celebrated, at Turin and at Lucerne, amid scenes of great enthusiasm and *éclat* their respective jubilees.

In the unavoidable absence of the President, this Club was officially represented at Turin by Mr. Eaton, and at Lucerne by Captain Farrar, who respectively conveyed our most hearty congratulations and good wishes on the auspicious occasion to the two Clubs. The extremely cordial reception which was given to these gentlemen bears witness not only to the admirable manner in which each of them performed his pleasant mission, but also to the excellent relations existing between the senior society and her younger sisters. May they long continue!

It is necessary to go back to the year 1895 to find so glorious a season of continuous fine weather as that which favoured mountaineers in 1911; but, on the other hand, during the whole of the summer of 1912 (as was, curiously enough, also the case in 1896) the most abnormally atrocious conditions prevailed, while in 1913, with the exception of a splendid ten days towards the latter half of August, matters were not very much better.

Föhn and warm south winds were constant throughout the summer, producing a phenomenally high but misleading barometer, and conditions of snow which were treacherous and uncertain. In these days, when snowcraft is unfortunately neglected or ill understood by all but the very best guides and the most experienced amateurs, it was due rather to luck than to good leadership that on more than one occasion avalanches,

started by parties who were ill-advisedly traversing snow slopes set at a high angle, did not produce the most deplorable results.

It is impossible to do more than briefly mention some of the more remarkable expeditions made by members of the Club in the glorious season of 1911. First and foremost comes the brilliant campaign of Messrs. H. O. Jones and Geoffrey Young. Beginning in Dauphiné with a traverse, made for the first time, of the Dôme de Neige, the Pic Lory, and Les Écrins, they proceeded to Courmayeur and, thence made the first ascent of the Punta Margherita from the Col des Grandes Jorasses, the first descent of the E. arête of the Grandes Jorasses to the Col des Hirondelles, and the ascent of Mont Blanc from the Col Émile Rey by the Pic Luigi Amedeo and the Brouillard arête. These last three expeditions were all of the first magnitude and of the greatest interest, completing or contributing to, as they did, the solution of Alpine problems of great importance and long pendency.

Finally, accompanied by Mr. R. Todhunter, they made the ascent of the Mer de Glace face of the Aiguille de Grépon direct to the summit of that peak. Josef Knubel led throughout this most strenuous and astounding rock-climb, which, perhaps owing to the fact that it has not been described by its authors as 'verging on the borders of the impossible,' and that the international appetite for competition has thus not been stimulated, no attempt has been made to repeat. Personally, while heartily congratulating Mr. Young's party on their achievement, I will express the hope that it may *not* be repeated, for I believe that at the utmost there are only half a dozen guides in the whole range of the Alps who are possessed of the requisite combination of skill, strength, and endurance to lead on an expedition of such great length and continuous difficulty; it is not a place, moreover, where the risk of bad weather or of an involuntary bivouac can be contemplated with unconcern, at any rate by the friends of a party overtaken by storm or by night on that pitiless rock-face.

In this year also Mont Blanc by the Brenva route, which has been described by a good judge as the finest ice-climb in the Alps, and the traverse of the Nord End from Macugnaga came much into fashion; and each climb was accomplished several times—the former by Messrs. Cæsar, Runge, and Lloyd, and the latter by Messrs. Eaton and Oliver, by Dr. O. K. Williamson, by Mr. Rolleston, and by Messrs. E. A. Broome and Corning. They are both expeditions of the highest order.

though not, I think, especially the former, entirely free from danger.

Dr. Williamson discovered a new and very difficult pass in the Oberland—the Gletscherjoch ; Mr. Stuart Jenkins ascended La Sengla by the N.E. arête ; and Mr. Rolleston, the indefatigable, traversed the Dent Blanche by a new route in combination. He ascended by the Viereselsgrat, and, descending by the Ferpècle arête, was back in Zermatt an hour before midnight chimed—a truly remarkable performance.

Another expedition which deserves special mention was the winter ascent of the Matterhorn on January 31, 1911, by Mr. Charles Meade and the two Josefs, cousins of S. Niklaus. After a most successful and rapid ascent the party were assailed on the summit by a violent and icy gale and had great difficulty in making good their retreat—one of them sustaining severe frost-bite, from which, however, he has now happily recovered. Such are the vicissitudes attendant on winter mountaineering even under the best auspices.

In 1912 the insatiable Mr. Lloyd, profiting by about the only fine day during the season and by his expedition of the year before, descended from Mont Blanc by the Brenva route. The party, which, it is perhaps needless to say, was led by Josef Pollinger, was a very strong one, but although they got down eventually in safety their experiences do not encourage a repetition of the feat. It is worthy to rank with Christian Klucker's descent of the ice wall of the Güssfeldt Sattel some twenty years ago as a 'tour de force' only to be accomplished by an iceman of the most exceptional skill, strength, and daring.

Messrs. Jones and Young made the first ascent of La Pointe Isolée (of the Dames Anglaises) and what was, alas! destined to be their last climb together. This expedition was primarily undertaken for the purpose of exploring the approach to the Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret by its S.E. arête. It materially aided the solution of this problem and prepared the way for the successful guideless expedition of Messrs. Bonacossa, Preuss, and Carl Prochownick in the following year.

Mr. Broome, our energetic senior Vice-President, climbed the Marmolata Südwand this year for the third time, and made various other good climbs in the Dolomites.

The returns for 1913 have not yet been fully examined, but notwithstanding the unfavourable weather some excellent work was done by our members, amongst which the guideless expeditions made by Count Aldo Bonacossa stand pre-eminently forth. He has made the first ascent of the actual summit

of the Punta Sertori, while those of Monte Confinale by the N. arête, of the Cima della Manzina by the N. face, and of Monte Zebbru by the S.W. face fell to him on three successive days, August 16, 17, and 18, 1913.

To these must be added the first ascents of the Laquinhorn by the E. face, of the Aletschhorn by the W.S.W. face, of the Schienhorn by the E. arête, and last, not least, of the Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret by the S.E. arête. These climbs show that novelty still exists in plenty, if not in profusion, for those who know where to seek it, even in the Alps.

Captain Strutt succeeded, after a desperate piece of slab and crack climbing, in vanquishing, under Josef Pollinger's leadership, the hitherto unconquered E. arête of the Pizzo del Ferro Centrale (Cima della Bondasca). We shall await a full account of this sensational climb with much interest. The 'ice-axe grip' appears to have been freely used by the leader.

The indefatigable Mr. Yeld made several new ascents in his own special domain of the Graians, and Mr. Stuart Jenkins was again to the fore in the Prarayé Pennines.

But the most remarkable expeditions of the season have undoubtedly been those of Dr. Guido Mayer under the leadership of Angelo Dibona, a Cortina guide who has come into great prominence of recent years, and who seems to be able to adapt himself to the mixed conditions of rock, ice, and snow on the greater Swiss and French Alps with a facility so unusual amongst his Dolomite-climbing comrades as to awaken reminiscences of the famous Sepp Innerkofler in the heyday of his prime. Dr. Guido Mayer has been good enough to supply the *ALPINE JOURNAL* with more or less detailed accounts of these ascents, which comprise the *Dôme de Neige des Écrins* by the N.W. face, the Central Peak of the *Ailefroide* by the N. arête, the *Aiguille du Plan* by the S.E. arête, and the *Dent du Requin* by the E.N.E. arête. The ascent of the *Écrins* from the N.W. is described by Dr. Guido Mayer as exceeding in difficulty the celebrated ascent of the *Lalidererwände* in the *Karwendelgebirge*, which were conquered by the brothers Mayer, under Dibona's leadership, in 1911, only after the repeated employment of iron hooks and pegs, and which has hitherto been considered by the Austrian school as the last word in rock-climbing. We cannot withhold our meed of admiration for the daring and skill which alone enable such expeditions to be successfully accomplished, but at the same time the cautious veteran may be pardoned if he suggests that possibly the limit of what is justifiable in the pursuit of a mere sport has now

been reached, if not exceeded, so far as gymnastic rock-climbing is concerned, and if he shakes his head in mild deprecation of any still more desperate feats, if such are to be found, which may be yet in contemplation.

I have left myself little time to do more than mention the extra-European wanderings of our members, of which we may, however, ask with pride, 'Quæ regio in terris nostri non plena laboris?'

In the Far East, Captain Corry has made exploring journeys and several new ascents in N.W. Kashmere; Dr. Kellas's travels in Sikkim and Garwhal in 1911 and his fourth Himalayan expedition in 1912; Mr. Charles Meade's two expeditions to Garwhal in 1912 and 1913 and his gallant attempts on Kamet; Dr. and Mrs. Workman's expeditions in 1911 and 1912, and especially their systematic exploration of the great Siachen glacier and the peaks surrounding its head; Captain Todd's exploratory work in the Kagen valley in 1911 and Colonel Bruce's explorations with him in the main chain of the Himalaya between Kashmere and Kumaon—all merit special mention. From Dr. De Filippi's Karakoram expedition which left Europe last July, and which is now in winter quarters at Skardu, the capital of Baltistan, the greatest things are to be expected; no expedition better led or so well equipped and organised has ever visited the Himalayas.

In North America Mr. Carfrae has explored Mount Abbott and the surrounding district; Dr. Longstaff, changing from an Indian to a Canadian sky but preserving his mountaineering spirit, has made an expedition to the Spillimachen mountains between the Columbia and Beaver rivers, and a trip through British Columbia and Alaska down the Yukon River. Dr. Collie and Mr. Mumm have explored the country to the north of the Yellowhead Pass.

Captain Farrar has made a pilgrimage to the north foot of Mount Robson as well as sundry ascents in that region, though his main plans were frustrated by bad weather. Mr. Mumm again visited Canada this summer and made some successful climbs, though his more ambitious plans were also brought to nought by the unfavourable elements.

The Caucasian guideless expedition under Mr. Raeburn's leadership will be fresh in the memories of those of us who attended the November meeting of the Club, when Mr. Ling, his trusty comrade of many years' climbing, read us a most interesting paper. The expedition was conducted in accordance with the best traditions of English guideless mountaineering,

and it is much to be hoped that its very remarkable success will induce Messrs. Raeburn and Ling to revisit the Caucasian chain next summer.

At the General Meetings of the Club we have been privileged to listen to a most interesting series of papers ranging, in addition to the normal records of mountain adventure, travel, and exploration, over such diverse subjects as Alpine Humour, Colour Photography, the Indoor Training of Climbers, Alpine Mysticism and the interpretation of a truncated text from the Apocalypse.

The informal monthly meetings of the Club, instituted through the motherly care of our Honorary Secretary and preceded by an equally informal dinner, continue to be well attended. As far as the dinner is concerned, it might conduce still further to its popularity if a private room could always be secured. This would add slightly to the price—by no means excessive—of the repast, but would, I think, be appreciated and would tend to secure a larger attendance at this preliminary function.

The Annual Exhibitions of Alpine Pictures and Photographs have been, as usual, most successful, and in this regard our most hearty thanks are due to Mr. Spencer (who masquerades on these occasions under the high-sounding appellation of the 'Alpine Picture Exhibition Sub-Committee') and to Mr. Baker for the time and trouble which they have devoted to their arrangement.

This evening and for the remainder of this month a post-humous exhibition of peculiar and unwonted interest hangs upon these walls and bears living testimony to the rare and remarkable talent of our deceased fellow-member—the heroic Edward Adrian Wilson.

The ALPINE JOURNAL, under the able control of its veteran Editor, Mr. Yeld, who is now in the eighteenth year of his reign, and the Assistant Editorship of our late Vice-President, Captain Farrar, fully maintains its well-earned reputation.

Captain Farrar, whose practical experience and knowledge of mountaineering are unsurpassed by those of anyone now living, and whose acquaintance with the last developments of the modern school of rock-climbing, both at home and abroad, is certainly unequalled by any Englishman, devotes an expenditure of time and enthusiasm, to say nothing of other things, to that branch of the editorial work which he has made peculiarly his own, for which we cannot be too

grateful and of which the results are amply apparent. The best thanks of the Club are due, and are, I know, most heartily accorded, to both these gentlemen.

In consequence of the gradually increasing bulk of the biennial volume of the Journal in eight quarterly numbers, it was decided soon after I became President to bind that publication in future in annual volumes of four quarterly numbers. This change has, I think, been generally approved by the Club.

The Journal was once described as the 'Champagne of Alpine Literature,' and it is to be hoped that it has done nothing to forfeit that flattering title. It was, however, discovered by the eagle eye of our indefatigable Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, who is a financier of the first—shall I say in this connexion—*water*, that we had for some time past been supplying this admirable Alpine cuvée (not 'Extra Dry,' I hope) at considerably below the actual cost of production. We have consequently raised the price per quarter bottle—I mean per quarterly number—from 2s. to 3s. 6d. At the same time every care has been taken to maintain to the full the ancient traditions and characteristic features of the Club publication.

Amongst the literary efforts of members of the Club, apart from their contributions to the Journal, may be mentioned Professor Coleman's standard work on 'The Canadian Rocky Mountains,' Dr. Bonney's authoritative and most valuable book 'The Building of the Alps,' and Sir Claud Schuster's 'Peaks and Pleasant Pastures,' a charming little volume of Alpine sketches.

Mr. Bryce's 'South America' will be appreciated as a masterly general sketch of the great continent of the S.W., but even more for its graceful dedication 'to his friends in the Alpine Club' by our eminent ex-President, who has thus shown us that amid affairs of the greatest international moment he was constant in his affections to the Club of which he is so great an ornament.

There are many other things which I should have liked to say, but I have already detained you too long. I have, however, said at any rate enough to show that the Club has in my opinion never during the fifty-seven years of its existence been in a more flourishing and healthy condition. I do not venture to foretell in what precise direction its energies, active and latent, will ultimately develop, but I confidently predict for it a future as vigorous and as successful as has been its past.

There remains one very pleasant duty for me to perform before I resume for a few moments, and for the last time, the Chair which I have occupied at each one of our meetings during the past three years.

Let me first thank my fellow-members—each and every one of them—for the kindness and consideration which they have invariably shown to me personally, and for the constant and invaluable support which they have always been ready to afford me officially. Next let me express my warmest thanks to the Officers of the Club, both past as well as present, who have been ever ready to assist me with their wise counsel and their welcome help.

Of the special debt of gratitude which I owe to our Honorary Secretary, my old friend Charles Wollaston, I find it difficult to speak; fortunate indeed is the President who has such a tower of strength to lean upon for his support, and such a wise guide to direct his footsteps in the right path when they are prone to stray therefrom.

In receiving, three years ago, from my predecessor in this Chair the trust which I am about to relinquish I promised, so far as in me lay, to walk in those traditions which he had himself so fully and firmly maintained, and expressed the earnest hope that when the time came I might in turn hand that trust on, equally unsullied and unimpaired, to my successor.

I have tried at any rate to keep my promise, and if only I may be thought to have achieved, at least to some extent, that hope, my fondest wish has been fulfilled.

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## SCRAMBLES IN SINAI.

By GEOFFREY E. HOWARD.

† (Read before the Alpine Club, June 10, 1913.)

WHEN I tell people I have been to Sinai, I find they divide themselves for the most part into three classes. The first wax dreadfully facetious and ask if I went to look for the Ark; the second make intelligent inquiries about the sacred spots in the Holy Land, where they vaguely suppose every place mentioned in the Bible to be situated; and the third confuse and terrify me with searching scientific questions about the