

now hangs, Mr. Jordan's lines of ascent and descent appear to have coincided. He tells me when in the *ascent* they got to the ledge below the Echelle a rope from Maquignaz's previous expedition was hanging above them but more to the left (W.). On the *descent* this rope was moved to the left (E.) to probably the place where the Echelle now hangs and where the cliff is lower, although no doubt steeper. Probably other minor variations were made between the Echelle and the summit.

Mr. Leighton Jordan's explorations were evidently very considerable and virtually make him the first traveller to traverse the mountain as well as to make the first ascent by a purely Italian route, and I may state with confidence that he now knows more of the Galerie route than any traveller who has not known the supreme satisfaction which one feels in treading it.

J. P. FARRAR.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W., on Monday, December 11, 1916, at 8.30 P.M., the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford, *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club—namely Messrs. A. B. Bryn, G. L. Corbett, N. E. Odell, and the Rev. T. H. Philpott.

The *PRESIDENT*, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 29, declared the following gentlemen to be duly elected for 1917:—

As *President*, Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., in place of the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford whose term of office expires.

As *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. George Yeld and Lieut.-Colonel E. L. Strutt.

As *Honorary Secretary*, Major G. E. Gask, R.A.M.C., F.R.C.S., in place of Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston, who retires.

As *Members of Committee*, Messrs. J. H. Clapham, W. T. Kirkpatrick, Claude A. Macdonald, H. W. Belcher, Major J. P. Somers, Lieut.-Colonel A. H. Tubby, C.M.G., M.B., F.R.C.S., M.S., and the Rev. W. C. Compton and Messrs. W. H. Ellis and E. B. Harris in the places of Mr. J. E. C. Eaton, Major G. E. Gask, and Lieutenant C. F. Meade, who retire by effluxion of time.

It was proposed and seconded, and carried unanimously, that Messrs. G. E. Howard and R. S. Morrish be elected Auditors, to audit the Club accounts for the current year.

In declaring the election of Captain Farrar as President of the Club for the coming year, the *PRESIDENT* said:—I wish to congratulate the Club upon the election of Captain Farrar as President.

His qualifications for the post cannot be better expressed than in the words used by Sir Edward Davidson three years ago: 'Captain Farrar's practical experience and knowledge of mountaineering are unsurpassed by those of anyone now living, and his acquaintance

with the last developments of the modern school of rock-climbing, both at home and abroad, is certainly unequalled by any Englishman.'

I wish to adopt these words as my own, and I think it is obvious that the Club is to be congratulated that its President should be one possessing such qualifications.

Captain FARRAR, said : Gentlemen,—My modesty compels me to disclaim some of the much too kind things the President has said about me.

You have done me a very great honour, for it is a high honour to be chosen to preside over a Society like ours, which has well and honourably earned the place it holds in the mountaineering world. I am not going to make to you any protestations of loyalty and devotion to the Club—we are all loyal, we are all devoted to the 'incomparable' Club. Mr. President, there are drawbacks to my new position. The principal one is yourself and your nineteen predecessors—small wonder that I feel considerable trepidation in the anticipation of carrying the mantle so worthily borne in the past. Still I know that I shall always be certain of the support and of the forbearance of my good friends and comrades.

My new office places me in a somewhat anomalous position. As some of you know, I have had the honour to assist Mr. Yeld with the ALPINE JOURNAL now for some years past. The inexorable Honorary Secretary tells me that I am to continue to do so, so long as Mr. Yeld will have me—so that the exquisite position is conceivable that the Editor in York may wax fat and kick, and chastise with rods the inoffensive, long-suffering Assistant Editor in London, whereupon, Mr. President, on and after the first of January, it will be in the power of the new President in London, and it may quite well fit in with his inclination, to chastise with scorpions that self-same truculent Vice-President in York.

Sir EDWARD DAVIDSON said : The agreeable duty has been assigned to me of proposing a vote of thanks to our retiring Honorary Secretary, Mr. Charles Wollaston, for the excellent and distinguished services, which he has rendered to the Club during the last five years.

The Honorary Secretary of the Alpine Club, though he is discreetly unobtrusive in public, is in many ways its most important officer, and is the real power behind the Presidential throne. For myself, I am glad to take this opportunity of acknowledging my great debt of gratitude to my old friend for the manner in which he presided over me during the last two years of my Presidency. I find some difficulty, however, in saying all that I should like to say about him in his presence and moreover I know that it would be distasteful to his modest nature were I to attempt to do so ; but, after all, 'good wine needs no bush,' and it is very certain that the year in which Charles Wollaston first saw the light was that of a 'Comet' vintage.

It is unnecessary before this audience to attempt to gild refined

gold or to paint the lily : we all of us know and deeply appreciate his great services to the Club, as I am sure we shall show him by the way in which this motion will be received.

I beg to propose that the most hearty thanks of the Club be given to our Honorary Secretary for the great and devoted services which he has rendered to us during the past five years.

Mr. E. A. BROOME said : I have much pleasure in seconding the resolution. Mr. Wollaston has served us as Honorary Secretary considerably longer than the average term, and he has latterly had very little assistance in the work owing to the absence of the Assistant Secretary. I am sure that you will agree with me in saying that he has steered our barque most skilfully through very troublous times, and we are all most grateful to him and are sorry indeed to lose him.

The vote of thanks was carried unanimously.

Mr. C. H. R. WOLLASTON, in returning thanks to the members, mentioned that during the five years that he had served as Honorary Secretary he had been invariably treated with great kindness and forbearance by the officers and members, and that such success as he might have attained in carrying out the duties of the post was in a large measure due to the invaluable assistance he had received from the Assistant Secretary, Mr. F. Oughton, now serving in H.M.'s army.

The PRESIDENT announced that during Major Gask's absence at the front on military duty Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston had, at the request of the Committee, consented to act as Honorary Secretary.

The PRESIDENT then delivered the address reported in the present Journal.

Mr. G. YELD said : I believe it is the traditional duty of the Senior Vice-President to propose the vote of thanks to the outgoing President ; it is therefore my pleasant task to-night to ask you to give a very cordial vote of thanks to Lord Justice Pickford for his services to the Club in the onerous and honourable office of President.

We have been accustomed to expect much from our Presidents, and we have not been disappointed. They have been men distinguished in many of the highest walks of life, and our retiring President is no exception to the rule. If the measure of our gratitude were to be reckoned by the time which our President has given to the Club, in the midst of the numerous and exacting duties of his high position, it would have to be great indeed. It is great indeed ; though I hope he has sometimes felt that it has been to him a recreation and refreshment to come amongst those who love the mountains as he does himself, and spend a pleasant hour in climbing a great peak, or crossing old passes in Godley company, or discussing ' Gait and Style ' with an accomplished literary leading guide.

He has presided over our meetings with the ability, geniality, and kindly consideration for everyone which we expected from

him, and the Committee owes very much to his varied knowledge, discretion, and acumen.

No President has ever held his position in such troubled years, nor had so many times to lament the loss of distinguished members of the Club—many of them on the Field of Honour.

He is the only President, I believe, who has been denied the pleasure of presiding over those annual festivals which had up to the beginning of the war for so long closed our Alpine year, and at which the Club was wont to entertain so many and so distinguished guests. He would surely be justified in saying

‘Fortune has not been kind to me, good friends’;
and if he adds

‘But let not that deprive me of your loves,
Or of your good report,’

I will assure him on behalf of all of you that he holds the highest place in our appreciation and regard, and that we are deeply grateful to him for all that he has done for the Club. I beg to move that a most cordial vote of thanks be given to the Rt. Hon. Lord Justice Pickford for his services as President of the Alpine Club.

Mr. E. A. BROOME, in seconding the vote of thanks, said: I cordially agree with Mr. Yeld’s remarks. Lord Justice Pickford has indeed made us an ideal President. He has missed no Committee Meetings and only one General Meeting (and then he was away ill) during his term of office, and he has kept us all in order when we needed it. My only regret is that during the Lord Justice’s term of office there has been no Annual Dinner; he would indeed have been an ideal chairman. I am sure the Club will agree with me that, unlike each other as our retiring and newly-elected President may be in some ways, there is a strong resemblance in this, that one has been and the other will be most emphatically ‘the right man in the right place.’

Sir EDWARD DAVIDSON said: As the immediate predecessor of the President, I desire to associate myself most heartily with all that has been so well said by Mr. Yeld and Mr. Broome.

Three years ago the Club conferred on him the greatest honour in their power, and he has, by the unflinching wisdom, dignity, and courtesy with which he has presided over us, amply vindicated and repaid the trust then reposed in him.

The interests of the Club during these, in many ways, most sombre and trying times, could not possibly have been safer than in his hands, nor have its members ever been more united than under his genial Presidential sway.

He has alluded, in the most interesting valedictory address to which we have just listened, to the honours and decorations which have been conferred on members of the Club during his term of office, but he has, for obvious reasons, passed over a great honour

conferred on himself which we have all of us welcomed with pleasure and delight. We rejoice sincerely and most heartily congratulate our President on his appointment as a Lord Justice of Appeal and on his becoming a member of His Majesty's Privy Council, and we wish him long life and health to enjoy these distinctions and others that may yet be in store for him.

I beg to support the resolution.

Mr. G. A. SOLLY, in supporting, said that although the resolution had been proposed officially it meant much more than that, and that he was sure every member of the Club would join in it most heartily. He knew that the election of the President three years ago had been particularly welcome to the strong Northern contingent of the Club, who remembered that he was a resident in Liverpool when he began his climbing and remained in close association with that city until his appointment as a Judge of the High Court. He wished also to refer to the death of Miss Walker, to which the President had alluded. As a neighbour he had had the privilege of constantly seeing her during her long illness. His last visit was within four weeks of the end. She had then seemed particularly bright, and he had quite hoped to see her again. She constantly talked of the Alps and of the Alpine Club, and although her memory went back more often to early in the 'sixties, when she climbed so much with her father and brother, Frank and Horace Walker, A. W. Moore, and others, and the two great guides, Melchior and Jakob Anderegg, she was always warmly interested in hearing of the younger generation, and of all the doings of this Club. She had really been a great climber, and, when her brother was President, a speaker at a Club dinner very happily referred to her as 'that charming lady who, but for our stern Salic law, would long since have been President of this Club.' She was probably the first lady to make a series of big expeditions in the High Alps, year after year, and within five seasons, ending about 1864, her list of expeditions would have formed a very good qualification for a candidate even at the present day. Her house in Liverpool had been for over sixty years a gathering place for mountaineers, and had left with many, happy memories of friendship with a family of unusual charm and culture.

In conclusion, Mr. Solly referred to some verses by Miss Fanny Kemble¹ addressed to Miss L. Walker, when she gave up active climbing, and published in 'Temple Bar' for March 1889.²

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation, and the President briefly returned thanks.

¹ There are also some verses by Miss Kemble, entitled 'In Switzerland, 1889,' in 'Temple Bar' for January 1890.

² Reproduced with the Obituary Notice of Miss Walker in this number of the JOURNAL.