

## VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

BY THE RIGHT HON. LORD JUSTICE PICKFORD, PRESIDENT.

(Read before the Alpine Club December 11, 1916.)

**M**Y predecessor, in his address to the Club on a similar occasion to this, said that his period of office as President had been uneventful. I wish I could say the same of mine. It has been throughout the greater part of it under the cloud created by the tremendous events of the war—a war without precedent in extent, in the number of nations and the millions of men engaged, and in the efficiency and terribly destructive power of the implements of warfare employed.

But although it is impossible to avoid mention of the war, I have no intention of making it the subject of my address, except to the extent to which it has influenced the affairs of the Club. It is enough to say that while there is no absolute unanimity on this any more than on any other subject, there is an immense preponderance of opinion in the country that we could not, consistently with honour or with safety, have stood aside and taken no part, and a determination that the country must make every effort and every sacrifice to bring the war to a satisfactory end. I wish I could feel as sure that there was an equally general and clear appreciation of the difficulties we have still to face, and the way to face them.

We have had, since the outbreak of war, to raise an army of a size never contemplated before; we have had to clothe, feed, and arm it, and in spite of inevitable mistakes and confusion we may well be proud of what has been done.

In looking at the effect of the war upon the Club, the first and obvious effect noticed is that practically all members of military age who are not held back by ill-health or other insuperable obstacles have joined the forces, or are serving the country in some way, and we grieve to say many of them have been killed in action.

One member of the Committee, Col. Harry Walker, Vice-President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, was killed while in command of the 4th Battalion of the Black Watch before La Bassée. A few months before his death he had been gazetted C.M.G. for his conduct at Neuve Chapelle. He was a mountaineer of high class, a man distinguished in public and philanthropic work, and described by all his friends as of the most lovable nature.

I may group together three members whom we have lost by death in action, for most of their climbing and their military service was done in India : Major J. B. Corry, D.S.O., R.E., of the 3rd Sappers and Miners (Indian Army) ; Major Battye, a member of a well-known and distinguished family of Indian soldiers, and Captain R. D. Squires.

Two others of those so lost bore names well known in this Club—Captain A. M. Slingsby, one of two brothers killed in this war, also an Indian soldier and Indian climber, who two months before his death had obtained the Military Cross, and Captain C. T. K. Carfrae, a nephew of a very old member of this Club, killed near Ypres. The commanding officers of both these members spoke in the highest terms of them in letters written to their families.

From our colonies, who have so nobly stood by us, we have lost Lieut. J. R. Dennistoun, of New Zealand, a member of Captain Scott's 1910-11 Antarctic Expedition and a holder of the King's Antarctic and the Royal Geographical Society's Medals. He had climbed and explored much in New Zealand, from which country he came back at once on the outbreak of war to volunteer for service, and died from wounds received while flying on a bombing expedition near Arras.

Another young member who volunteered from another profession was 2nd Lieutenant E. Douglas Murray, of the Black Watch. His death cut short a career full of promise.

Captain C. Werner, a fine athlete in many branches, previously an assistant master at Harrow, was killed on the Aubers Ridge. When going into action he carried his ice-axe, for which he had sent only a few days before, as he considered it would be a useful tool and weapon under the conditions of this war.

Captain G. T. Ewen was posted as missing. I do not know whether his death has been officially recorded, but there does not seem to be room for doubt that he has been killed. Major Bernard Head, who had climbed much in India and New Zealand, was also killed in action.

To these names should be added those of Major O. E. Todd, 5th Gurkhas, who was accidentally killed in India, and Lt.-Col. C. Stonham, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., who died from illness contracted while serving in an important and responsible medical position with our Expeditionary Force in the Near East. They died in the service of their country, though not killed in action.

This concludes the tale of our losses, so far as I know them from deaths in action or on service up to the present. I wish I could think that it was finally concluded.

If I have said little of those I have mentioned it is for no other reason than that fuller details of their lives have already been given, and in many instances are to be found in obituary notices in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* written by those better qualified to speak of them than myself.

I have only mentioned the names of members who have been killed; others have been wounded, and I suppose there are few members of the Club who have not lost some relation or friend whose death leaves a gap hard to fill.

Turning to another side of the effect on our members, I find that honours for conduct in the war have been conferred on several.

One of our Vice-Presidents, at that time Major E. L. Strutt, who was severely wounded, has been decorated with the *Croix de Chevalier* of the Legion of Honour. He has also been promoted to the rank of Lt.-Colonel, and is now serving as *Chef de Liaison* to General Sarraill at Salonica, a position for which his knowledge of languages well fits him. I notice that his name has again been mentioned in despatches published within the last few days.

The same decoration and also the Military Cross have been conferred upon Captain E. O. Wheeler, son of our honorary member, Mr. A. O. Wheeler.

Colonel Bruce, who was wounded in Gallipoli, has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General. I think it is no breach of confidence to say that when I had to read many of Sir Ian Hamilton's despatches for another purpose I was pleased to find in them very high praise of Colonel Bruce's services.

Captain L. C. F. Oppenheim, who has also been wounded, has been appointed Military Attaché at the Hague, with the temporary rank of Major.

The Companionship of the Distinguished Service Order has been granted to Major L. W. Bird, of the Royal Berks Regiment, also a son of a member, and that of St. Michael and St. George to Col. A. H. Tubby, Lt.-Col. Ransom Pickard, and Temp. Lt.-Col. W. T. Lister. These last three are all for medical services rendered during military operations in the field.

Perhaps I may be allowed to mention that the honours of the family are not confined to Colonel Tubby. I hear that Mrs. Tubby has earned great credit, though perhaps not official recognition, for her very plucky rescue of two ladies, a Turkish and a Syrian, who had got into difficulties when bathing at Alexandria.

Mr. Geoffrey Young, while serving at the front with the Friends' Unit of the Red Cross, was made a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold, and received the distinction, rare for a civilian, of mention in Sir John French's despatches. In the same week his brother, Lieutenant Hilton Young, R.N.V.R., who is not a member of the Club, received the special medal for valour from the King of Serbia.

I have been dealing up to this point with the effect of the war on the club through its effect on individual members, but there are effects upon the Club in general to be noticed.

We have, of course, lost many members from death and resignation, and the supply of candidates to fill their places has been small, with the result that our numbers have been reduced from 722 at the beginning of 1914 to 661. There is, however, no doubt that the Club is in a perfectly sound financial position, but care has been and must be exercised, as, owing to the inability to let our hall, it is doubtful whether the income will this year meet the expenditure.

The earliest question that arose was that of the winter dinner in 1914. Should it be held or not? The Committee were unanimously of opinion that in the circumstances then existing it would be improper to hold the dinner as usual. At that time there were no precedents to be followed arising from the decisions of similar clubs and societies, and the Committee had to decide for themselves. As I have already said, probably no decision ever received unanimous assent, but I think the great weight of opinion in the Club was in favour of the course followed, and practically all clubs and societies accustomed to hold a similar festival acted in the same manner, showing that public opinion as a whole agreed with that of this Club.

At the beginning of each year since then we have fixed a date for the dinner in the hope that circumstances would so change as to permit it to be held. Each year there seemed at one time some ground for the hope, but each year it has failed and disappointment has followed, and no less in this year than the last.

I hope that my successor may be more fortunate.

Another question that arose was the position of our members, both ordinary and honorary, who were subjects of an enemy State.

With regard to the ordinary members with one exception the question solved itself automatically. By a rule of the Club any member who does not pay his subscription by a certain date *ipso facto* ceases to be a member. These enemy members did

not pay their subscription—they would have had great difficulty in doing so—and they ceased to be members. By the same rule anyone so ceasing to be a member can be reinstated by the Committee. If and when these members or any of them make such application, no doubt the then Committee will deal with it. The remaining member accepted the suggestion of the Committee that he should not remain a member.

The position of the honorary members was not so simple. It required some action of the Committee before they ceased to be members. There seems to be an opinion in some quarters—I do not mean in this Club—that to apply different treatment to an enemy from that applied to a friend is to take a narrow-minded view of affairs. I do not myself hold that opinion. I think that subjects of an enemy State, however personally estimable, are out of place as honorary members of a British club; and, speaking for myself, I think that they were particularly out of place in this Club.

We have on our list of honorary members the King of the Belgians, and we are proud to have him. We are proud to have him as a mountaineer, for his qualifications would well fit him for an ordinary member, and we are proud to have him as a man; for we respect his character and sympathize with his misfortunes. It seems to me that it would be absolutely incongruous to include in the same list of honorary members with him nationals of the country which invaded and occupied Belgium in defiance of all treaties and in violation of all their promises and undertakings, and conducted that invasion and occupation with a ruthlessness and a savagery which are a disgrace to a civilised nation. The same considerations, I think, apply, though in a less degree, to nationals of a country allied to it. I do not know whether these reasons influenced all the Committee in their decision, but it was decided to remove the names of subjects of an enemy State from the list of honorary members, and to communicate this decision to them if possible, and this was done.

A somewhat different question arose in the case of another honorary member, Sir Sven Hedin, K.C.I.E. He is a national of an allied country, but he has taken a strongly anti-British line, and has made speeches and written articles offensive to this country. We pointed out to him that we had no power or wish to influence his opinions or his actions, but that we considered that to make public attacks upon this country was inconsistent with the position of an honorary member of one of its clubs. After some correspondence he—I will not say

agreed with—acquiesced in this view, and his name was removed from the list.

I may mention that a sum of about £1,100 was provided by subscription amongst the members of the Club, and sent to the King of the Belgians to be used as he thought fit for the benefit of his countrymen.

The number of new or important climbs is naturally much less than in ordinary times, as climbing by our members has practically ceased to exist since August 1914, but there are some which require mention.

A new ascent of Mont Blanc du Tacul by its difficult S.E. arête was made by Baron de Rieseis with Henri and Adolphe Rey, who took nearly 12 hours from the Col du Géant to the summit.

Captain V. J. E. Ryan, with Josef and Franz Lochmatter, made an ascent of the Grépon by a sort of couloir on the Nantillons face. The line followed crossed an extremely steep ice-face which even Franz Lochmatter, the imperturbable, describes as in places 'very unpleasant.' Probably this climb is only possible in the early summer, as later in the year the couloir would be all ice.

The same party repeated the route up the Mer de Glace face of the Grépon originally made by Mr. Geoffrey Young, the late Mr. H. O. Jones, and Mr. Todhunter, led by Josef Knubel and Brocherel, and then descended the Nantillons face above mentioned.

The same party also made a new route up the S. peak of the Aiguille de Blaitière from the Mer de Glace side. In its lower part the route followed Mr. Broome's Col des Nantillons route, and then turned off to the left about 500 feet below the Col. The nature of the climb may be judged by two remarks of the climbers. Captain Ryan: 'The last 600 feet of this climb was difficult.' Franz Lochmatter: 'It took a good bit of time.'

Two difficult variations on the Requin were made by the same party.

An Italian guideless party repeated Mr. Coolidge's famous northern route up Monte Viso, taking 15 hours to the summit. They are not disposed to quarrel with the estimate of its difficulties formed by Mr. Coolidge when, led by Almer, he made the first ascent by that route.

The indefatigable Wicks, Wilson, and Bradby party, joined in the first case by Dr. Wills, made new ascents of the Mettenberg and the Gwächten, while Dr. Wilson, with Henri Rey, made an ascent of the Eiger Rothstock by its E. face, the rocks of which

are described as so steep that the rope becomes a menace and not a security, and neither climber would care to repeat the scramble. Time appears to have no power over these determined and skilful mountaineers, and whether on an ice climb like the Brenva or a purely rock climb they take no denial. Age cannot wither them, and our remote descendants will probably find them still making new ascents.

The great climb of the year was Mr. Geoffrey Young's conquest of the famous Rothe Zähne of the Gspaltenhorn. His companion was the late Mr. G. W. Herford (not a member of the Club), since killed in action in France. His leader was of course Josef Knubel, assisted by a young guide, Hans Brantschen, of St. Nicolas, the latest product of that great school of guides. The ascent involved the traverse of one of the most forbidding and jagged ridges in the Alps. Mr. Young has himself described the climb in the pages of the *JOURNAL*.

The so-called Grande Guglia de Peuteret, a 4000-metre point on the S. arête of the Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret, was finally gained by the brothers Si. Joseph and Baptiste Gugliermina and F. Ravelli. They then traversed to the Aiguille Blanche itself and descended by the E. face of the latter, which had only been descended before by Mr. E. T. Compton and Dr. Blodig and by the late Mr. H. O. Jones's party. The desperate descent to the Brenva glacier by the same party in the previous year, when caught in a terrible blizzard lasting two days and compelled to bivouac on the arête above the Dames Anglaises, was duly recorded in the *JOURNAL*.

The Guglierminas and their friend Professor Lampugnani, lately decorated for valour on the field of battle, and Signor F. Ravelli are admitted to be in the very first rank of mountaineers, and their carefully designed and well carried out expeditions are models of what can safely be done in the mountains by a thoroughly trained party without any professional assistance.

Mons. E. R. Blanchet, the well-known authority on the Alps of the Canton de Vaud, was again occupied in making new routes on the Tête de Pierre Grept and the Grand Muveran. Young Félix Veillon, who now accompanies him, seems a worthy successor to his relatives Jules and Charles Veillon, of Les Plans. The new hut on the Rosenlauri side of the Engelhörner, built by the Akademischer Alpen Club Bern, has enabled some of its young members to extend the multitudinous new routes in that group. Thus a complete traverse of the central group from the Simmelisattel to the Gamsen-

sattel has been made by Herr Wyss and three companions. The E. flank of the Hohjägiburg was ascended by Herr F. Müller and two friends, and found much less difficult than it looked, while another variation on the Kingspitze was made by the same gentleman.

A direct route up the W. face of the Lauteraarhorn was made by MM. Scabell and Egger. This must be very close to the route taken by our members, Messrs. Oakley Maund and Baumann in 1881, and as the rocks are described as '*good throughout and very entertaining*,' it is well worth the attention of climbers who have hitherto been deterred from making the ascent of that mountain owing to the length of the route by the Strahlegg.

A good deal of attention was paid in 1913-4-5 to the summits of the Lepontine and Ticinese Alps.

In the Bernina Alps Colonel Strutt, with Josef Pollinger, extended his almost unique knowledge of that district by making the first ascent of the Pizzo del Ferro Orientale by the N. face, involving constant step-cutting in hard snow and ice at an angle of 55° to 65°. The enormous summit cornice was only overcome by the climber, perched on the guide's shoulders, finally managing to cut a hole through the great overhanging lip. No wonder Pollinger always classes Colonel Strutt as the best amateur iceman with whom he has travelled.

Other difficult ascents in the same district were made by Signori Scotti, Calegari, Binaghi, Fasana, and others.

Practically nothing new is reported, if indeed anything new remains, in the Central Pennine Alps.

The weather in the years 1914-5 was much against high mountain expeditions. Experienced men among our members report that in no July in their recollection were the mountains so plastered with snow as in July 1914; thus even the otherwise tame Monte Viso required quite respectable care, and on a brilliant day the range of Mont Blanc and the Pennines was nothing less than one great snow wall, so that even well-known rock mountains were difficult to pick out with any certainty.

In the Himalayas Dr. de Filippi completed a journey of sixteen and a half months in the Eastern Karakoram, making numerous scientific observations and exploring the Remo Glacier, which is found to be the parent of the Shyok river, a tributary of the Indus, as well as of the Yarkand river, which loses itself in the sand of Central Asia.

Captain H. D. Minchinton made in 1914 an extended journey (cut short by the outbreak of war, in which he served with distinction both in France and Mesopotamia) in Bara Baghal, Lahoul, and Zanskar. He discovered quite a number of lateral glaciers, some of considerable size. His journey is described at length in the present number of the *JOURNAL*.

During my term of office there have been deaths of members and others whom I cannot omit to mention, though very shortly, as in most cases their records are to be found in the notices of them contained in the *JOURNAL*.

We have lost our last original member, Dr. Llewelyn Davies, the first to ascend the Dom and Täschhorn, a scholar, a theologian, and a promoter of social and educational progress, who merited, though probably he did not covet, higher promotion in the Church than he obtained.

Several of those who have died attained high positions in the State—the Earl of Minto, Viceroy of India, who made the third ascent of the Schreckhorn with Horace Walker and Hans Jaun—Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Governor of South Australia—Sir John Fuller, Governor of Victoria—Sir Kenelm Digby, Permanent Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office, formerly captain of the eleven both at Harrow and Oxford, who made a new route to the Sattel of Monte Rosa—Dr. T. W. Jex-Blake, head master of Cheltenham and afterwards of Rugby and Dean of Wells, and Sir F. F. Cullinan, Principal Clerk in the Chief Secretary's office in Dublin.

Amongst the other members we have lost are one member of the House of Lords, Lord Ellenborough, who as Captain Law, R.N., was at one time a constant attendant at our meetings—Mr. Frederick Morshead, a great climber, as appears from the record of his deeds in the *JOURNAL*, who declined the Presidency and Vice-Presidency because he had not time to attend to the duties—Mr. J. H. Fox, a very old member of the Club, who climbed much with Mr. F. F. Tuckett, and cousin of Mr. Harry Fox, who was lost in the Caucasus—and Mr. James Eccles, one of the first climbers of his day, who, with Michel and Alphonse Payot, made the first ascent of Mont Blanc by the Brouillard and Fresnay Glaciers, an expedition that has never been repeated in its entirety.

I may mention that Colonel Tilney, the representative of the families of Mr. and Mrs. Eccles, has kindly given to the Club some very fine plates of scenery, chiefly in the neighbourhood of Mont Blanc, of which district Mr. Eccles had such a remarkable knowledge. The Honorary Secretary is gradually

making a list of these plates, which will be kept at the Club for the use of any members who wish to see them.

Since our last meeting two distinguished Oxford men, Professor W. W. Esson, Savilian Professor of Geometry, and the Rev. H. F. Tozer, have died. The latter is rightly described in his obituary notice as one of the oldest and foremost representatives of classical geography and travel. He was also an admirable representative of the Oxford Don of the old school.

Besides these we have lost Mr. G. T. Amphlett, president of the Mountain Club of South Africa—the Rev. A. Fairbanks, a constant attendant at our meetings, some of whose climbs were recorded in a paper recently contributed by Mr. J. Stogdon—and Mr. R. L. Harrison, for many years an auditor of our accounts.

Several great guides have died—Melchior Anderegg, of whom it is unnecessary to say more than has already been said—a very great guide; J. J. Blanc, called *Le Greffier*, a good guide himself and father of good guides; Pierre, known as *Père*, Gaspard, who made the first ascent of the Meije with M. de Castelnau; Sepp. Innerkofler, of Sexten, who was killed in the war, one of the best of the Tyrolese guides, with a knowledge of snow and ice beyond that of most guides from that district; J. B. Rodier, a well-known Dauphiné guide; Jean Maître, of Evolena; Franz Biener, known to everyone as *Weisshorn Biener*; Josef Lochmatter, one of the family of famous brothers; and lastly Martin Schocher, the well-known Pontresina guide.

Herr Cathrein, of the Eggishorn and Rieder Alp, well known to most Alpine travellers, died quite recently. I may add to the mention of Herr Cathrein that his well-known relation, Dr. Alexander Seiler, generously offered hospitality in the Seiler hotels at Zermatt to wounded British officers, for which we tender him our hearty thanks.

Two ladies well known in the Alps died at a great age—Miss Catherine Martha Gardner, whose great feat was the descent of the Pigne d'Arolla by the N. face, and Miss Lucy Walker, the sister of Horace Walker, formerly President of the Alpine Club.

Time does not permit me to say much of Miss Walker. She climbed for several years, and frequented the Alps for years after she had given up climbing. Her great achievement was the first ascent by a lady of the Matterhorn at a time when that mountain retained more respect than it sometimes receives now. No one who knew her and her brother can fail to regret them both, there was not a charitable or worthy

object to which they were not quick to give their help, and I think it is right to say that there could not be better examples of the kindly, honourable, unassuming English lady and gentleman than Lucy and Horace Walker.

As I have said before, the supply of new members has been small, but there are two additions which should not pass without mention.

The honorary membership of the Club has been accepted by Captain Duhamel, a well-known French mountaineer and author, a veteran of the war of 1870, now serving in the 28th Bataillon de Chasseurs Alpins (Commandant la Division des Skieurs), in which same distinguished corps his three sons are also serving. Mr. J. B. Colgrove, one of the famous three C's—Colgrove, Cust, and Cawood—has rejoined as an ordinary member. Sir Edward Davidson mentioned the deaths of the other two during his term of office. I am glad to be able to mention that we still have as a member the last survivor of the band.

Only this evening the Rev. T. H. Philpott, who originally became a member in 1865, has rejoined us. Quite recently he gave us some charming 'Memories of an Alpine Partnership of the 'Sixties, Hornby and Philpott,' and we welcome on his return the surviving member of the partnership.

As there have been deaths not caused by the war, so there have been honours not arising from it, and they have worthily fallen upon two of our ex-Presidents, Viscount Bryce and Mr.—or should I say Dr.—Douglas Freshfield.

Viscount Bryce's peerage was well deserved by public services extending over many years.

With regard to Mr. Freshfield, honours fall so thick and fast that I hardly know where to begin. First, in his fiftieth year of membership in this Club he was elected President of the Royal Geographical Society, a position for which he is admirably fitted; then the Italian Geographical Society elected him an honorary member.

The Royal Scottish Geographical Society presents a medal called the Livingstone Medal, not annually, but from time to time to distinguished persons. On the last occasion before that which I am about to mention it was presented to Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. This year the Society, recognizing that 'Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war,' conferred the medal on Mr. Freshfield. The latest—I will not say the last—of his honours was that of Honorary D.C.L. of the University of Oxford. For this degree he was presented, as was fitting, by the

Public Orator, our member Mr. A. D. Godley, whose Latin oration on the occasion has appeared in the JOURNAL and is no doubt familiar to all members.

You will have noticed that an alteration has this year been made in the JOURNAL in that there have only been three numbers instead of four. We were unwilling to make an alteration after so many years, but we felt bound to do so on the advice of the editors, based on the necessity for economy of paper, the increased cost of production, and the possibility of a deficiency of material by reason of the enforced cessation of climbing.

Although reduced in the quantity of its numbers, there has been no falling off in the quality of the contents of the JOURNAL. Through the development of what was called to me by one of our members the historical method by Captain Farrar, a new and attractive feature has been added. From diaries, manuscript notes, correspondence, and guides' Führerbücher, Captain Farrar has collected records of early climbs, some by guideless, some by guided parties, which are most interesting as history of the sport and descriptions of the conditions under which it was then pursued, so different from those of to-day. I know such research is a pleasure to him personally, but he none the less deserves our thanks for adding another pleasure to our reading of the JOURNAL.

The editor, Mr. Yeld, has established a record which I think will stand for a very long time. He has completed his twenty-first year as editor—a period more than twice as long as that attained by any of his predecessors, and I am glad to say he seems no worse for it and is still carrying on. We owe him much gratitude, and we hope that he may go on adding to his record for a long time to come.

The library has been well kept up, and the additions have been noticed from time to time. I may mention in particular that we have been fortunate enough to acquire the MS. journals of the late Mr. A. W. Moore from 1860 to 1863 and 1865 to 1869, which contain much valuable material for the pursuit of the historical method which I have mentioned.

Mr. Freshfield has in hand a life of De Saussure, also a valuable addition to Alpine history, and I am glad to see that he is most properly availing himself of his presidency of the Royal Geographical Society to utilize that body as a branch of the Alpine Club. In addition to the President's own papers on mountain subjects, Dr. Kellas read a valuable paper on the effect of high altitudes, which should be of great use in the

attacks on the Himalayas which we hope will take place after the war.

As usual, we are under great obligations to Mr. Sydney Spencer and Mr. G. P. Baker for their services in connection with picture exhibitions. Latterly there has been difficulty in arranging exhibitions by reason of the scarcity of exhibits, but the Honorary Secretary, never at a loss, has succeeded in securing in their place two exhibitions not provided by the Club, one of which we now see round us.

I cannot end without a word as to the Honorary Secretary, but I find a difficulty in the fact that, after all, the stock of laudatory adjectives is limited and I must not repeat myself too often. Perhaps I had better confine myself to saying that I endorse every word said by Sir Edward Davidson and Mr. Broome, and to adding for myself that he has made my term of office much less onerous and even more agreeable than it would have been without him.

He has added to the gratitude we owe him by undertaking to carry on the work of Honorary Secretary until his successor, Major Gask, is freed from his military duties.

I conclude by offering my thanks to all the members of the Club, in and out of office, for the kindness, courtesy, and consideration I have experienced from all of them, and by expressing my hope that my successor may soon be able to celebrate the conclusion of peace and a return to our ordinary life, freed from the cloud of sorrow and anxiety caused by the war.

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#### THE ALPS FROM 1856 TO 1865.

I HAVE been told that a few reminiscences of 'the days that are no more' would be welcome to those members of our Club—and they are now a great majority—who, for the best of reasons, never had experience of them. My first inclination was to reply in the words of the Needy Knife-Grinder, 'Story! I have none to tell'; for so much may be read of those early days in books such as 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers,' Forbes' 'Travels through the Alps of Savoy,' Hinchliff's 'Summer Months among the Alps,' and Wills' 'Wanderings in the High Alps,' to name no others. But on reflecting that the increased Alpine literature and wider outlook of the