



Photo Elliott & Fry

Sir Edward Davidson. C.B. K.C.M.G. &c. &c.

IN MEMORIAM.

WILLIAM EDWARD DAVIDSON.

1853-1923.

It must have been in the early 'seventies that I first met Davidson at Zermatt. He was then climbing with his father, and with Laurent Lanier of Courmayeur as guide. The friendship then formed was only broken by his death last summer.

For some years we visited the Alps together, and a more perfect companion, either on or off a mountain, could not easily be found. His knowledge, both geographical and historical, of the various peaks and passes was, even in the early days, surprising, while latterly but few, if any, members of the Club could equal his accuracy on the subject.

Fast and sure-footed on rocks, he was at first more interested in ice-work, and many a happy day was spent on some steep ice-slope or in cutting among the séracs of the Col du Géant or the Gorner Glacier.

The short time taken for the ascent and descent of the Gabelhorn from Zermatt, and the mad race to get assistance after the Knubel accident from the Lysjoch to the Riffl (1 h. 38 m.), when with Jaun we ran down the centre of the Lys Glacier, jumping all crevasses as they came, are proofs of how fast he could travel both on rock and snow.

My memory of our climbs is very imperfect, and all my notes have been destroyed; but among our last expeditions together the recollection of two delightful passes stands out—the Col Dolent and the Col des Hirondelles, both from the Chamonix Valley to Courmayeur.

One thing is ever present to my mind—Davidson's unfailing good temper in any difficulties or dangers. Whether it was dodging falling stones on a new route up the Weisshorn, or painfully crawling *à cheval* along the northern ridge of the Lyskamm, or having to turn back, owing to my sickness, when nearing the summit in an attempt on what was then called the Charmoz, his good humour never left him. How he enjoyed the terror of the many guides at some toy snakes we had taken out to Couttet's—one guide fled to the top of the tower, another, having upset the waiter and all the luncheon plates, was discovered under the landlord's bed, while the rest could not be found for some hours.

After '85 my work necessitated my living in the north, and we only met occasionally until last spring, when I was horrified to see how ill he looked. The enormous amount of responsible work he did at the Foreign Office during the war had taken its toll of him, though when he had tea with me some three or four days before

he died he was cheerful and eagerly looking forward to his visit to the Riffel Alp. Now he has gone, and what is left to me of life is the poorer for the loss of a true friend.

As Adam Lindsay Gordon writes :

‘ Let us thank the Lord for His bounties all
For the brave old days of pleasure and pain
When the world for both of us seemed too small,

Though we never shall know the old days again.’

J. W. H.

Mr. Fitzgerald writes :—

‘ I went to the Alps for the first time in 1869, and have revisited them practically every year since. My memory as to dates, etc., has become very uncertain.

‘ About 1879 Mr. Davidson wrote to me that he would be unable to come out that year owing to his father’s serious illness, and to know whether I cared to engage their guide Laurent Lanier of Courmayeur. I did not know Davidson previously, but I accepted at once his offer of Lanier, and thus a warm friendship between us was formed which lasted without break until his death by heat-stroke early last July.

‘ Thereafter I think we hardly missed a summer together in the Alps, and with Davidson and Holzmann I continued the game until about three years ago, when I began to feel that I was getting too old.

‘ One year Davidson, Holzmann and myself, with the Seymour Hoares and the Basgrave Deanes, went to Pontresina. It was then that Davidson and I did the fine expedition from the Roseg Restaurant over the Sella Pass, then ascending the Scerscen and following the arête to the top of Bernina and returning to Pontresina by the Scharte, where we arrived at 1.30 A.M. This latter part was done solely because Klucker wanted to show the Scharte to Ulrich Almer.

‘ Another year we spent a fortnight in Dauphiné, and I have never had a better climb than crossing the Meije.

‘ Another year we spent some time in the Dolomites. I enjoyed very much the ascent of the Kleine Zinne from the North. We also did some peaks from San Martino—fine climbs which I much enjoyed. Davidson did besides a great deal of climbing in the Dolomites.

‘ Christian Klucker was valuable to him not merely as a guide, but also as a courier.’

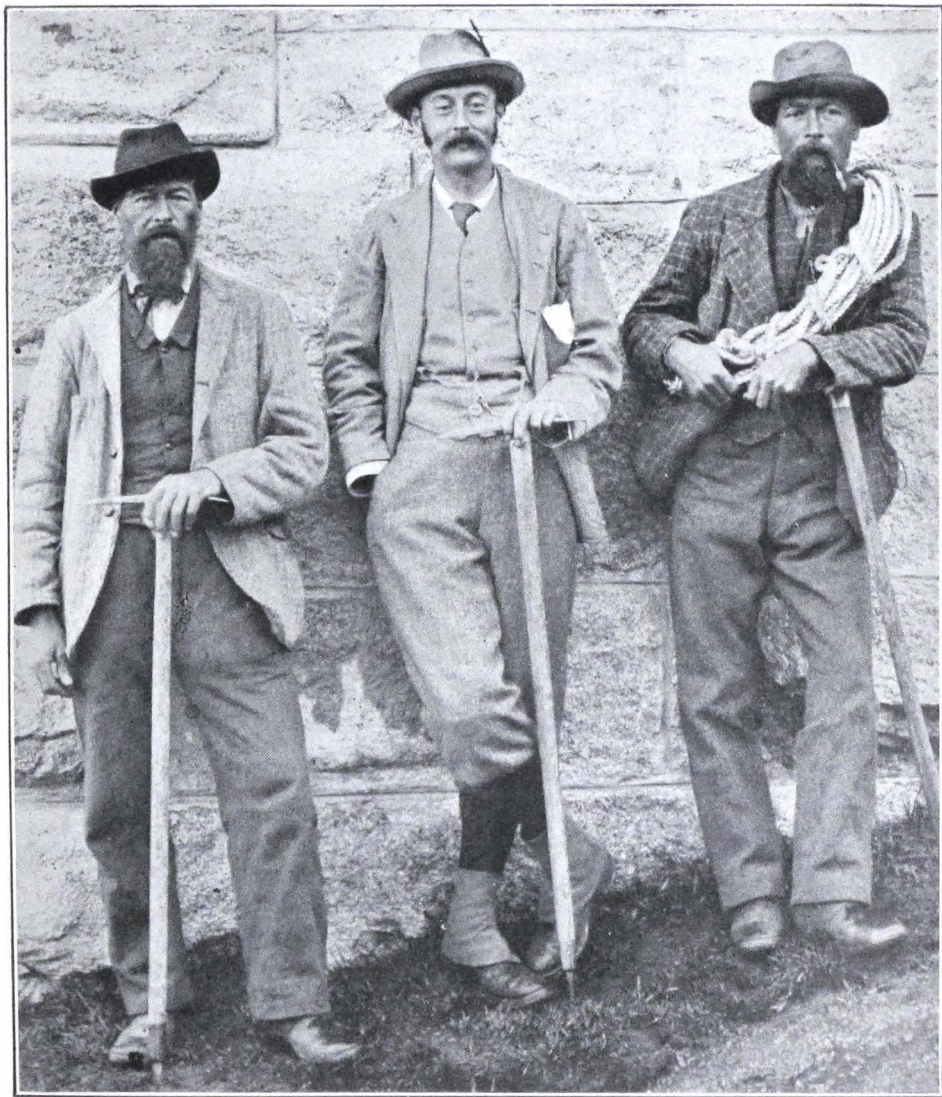
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I propose to deal with the purely mountaineering career of my late friend, and to add a short appreciation of his work. I am fortunately able to annex photographs, which show him at various periods of his life with the guides who contributed so much to his expeditions.



MR. DAVIDSON *père*.
LAURENT LANIER. W. E. DAVIDSON.

About 1874.



ANDREAS JAUN. W. E. DAVIDSON.

HANS JAUN.

Photograph by W. F. Donkin, Montanvert, 1882.

He was elected to the A.C. on February 2, 1875, on the qualification:—Matterhorn, Old Weissthor, Monte Rosa from the Grenz Glacier, Mont Blanc, Triftjoch, New Weissthor Alphubeljoch, Col du Géant. He had made a vacation tour in 1873, but the whole of these ascents were made in 1874, so that he was elected on a good one-year list.

On the Col du Géant and Triftjoch, Mr. W. Davidson, his father, took part. Mr. Davidson, senior, used to come out regularly for several years, and made occasional ascents, such as Wetterhorn. His regular guide for some years was Laurent Lanier of Courmayeur (1840–1884), of whom Mr. J. Walker Hartley has written in 'Pioneers' a great notice, while Davidson throughout speaks of him in the highest terms.

The ascent of Mte. Rosa by the rocks missed, by one day, being the first. On the Matterhorn 'we saw the ropes fixed by Taugwalder in the descent in '65, still hanging to the rocks.'

His further expeditions *include* : in

1875, 46 days. First passage of Arbenjoch, from Zinal side. It took 10 hours from the Roc Noir, and involved much cutting—the crest being finally reached away to the W. of Pt. 3657, whence they traversed to the Col, Bruneggjoch, Dom, Wetterhorn, Schreckhorn, Mont Blanc, Weisshorn (attempt defeated by bad snow).

1876, 46 days. Eiger, Jungfrau, Finsteraarhorn, Dent Blanche, Castor and Pollux, Jägerjoch.

1877, 42 days. Grandes Jorasses, Lyskamm, Breithorn (N. face), Rothhorn, Moming Pass, Gabelhorn, Weisshorn (from Schalligletscher).

1878, 46 days. Col de Talèfre (twice), Col du Géant (twice), Charmoz (attempt), [the present Grépon], Col de Miage, Nordend, Mont Blanc (twice), Col Dolent.

This was the first passage of the Col Dolent from the N. side. Whymper's passage, led by Almer and Croz, being from the Italian side, and involved the *descent* of the steep couloir leading to the Glacier d'Argentièrre—a very bold expedition. Sir Edward's note is: 'Reached foot of slope before first Bergschrund 8.30; crossed second Bergschrund and cut up sheer ice slope to rocks on left, about one-third way up couloir. Lanier cut 80 steps in hard ice in one hour. Went thence by rocks all the way to the Col, reached at 10.50. Left at 11.30, reached bottom of couloir [on the S. side] at 1.15 and Chalets de Sagivan at 3.45.'

The Col has been done very seldom since. The guides were Lanier and Jaun, and Mr. J. W. Hartley took part in the expedition. The time of ascent, 2 hours 20 minutes, speaks volumes for all the party.

The Charmoz [Grépon] entry reads: 'Started from Chamouni at 2, and got within 100 feet of top of Charmoz by couloir between the two peaks. Were finally stopped by ice on rocks.' Guides were Lanier and Kaspar Maurer, and Mr. J. W. Hartley took part.

1879—not out.

1880,¹ 41 days. Guide was Lanier till August 21, when an old frost-bitten foot invalidated him, and he was replaced by P. Anderegg. Mr. F. C. Hartley and Hans v. Bergen were of the party.

'Aug. 17.—Started in uncertain weather [from Chalet de Blaitière via Eccles with Michel and Alphonse Payot, W. E. D. and F. C. H. with Lanier and v. Bergen] for Charmoz [Grépon] at 4.45. Got up to Col at 10.45, and top of couloir overlooking Mer de Glace at 12. The last hour difficult. Impossible to get any further without artificial aid. Got back to Chamonix at 5.45.'

It should be remembered that in those days, and for some time later, the whole Charmoz-Grépon chain was termed Aig. des Charmoz (v. Mieulet's map and Kurz's 'Guide,' 1st edit. (1892), p. 107, note 1). The Petits Charmoz were named Aig. de Grépon. The early attempts on this group need re-examination.

Then follows an attempt on the Aig. Verte from the Charpoua Glacier: 'August 20. Started at 3.45 [from bivouac 2½ hours from Montanvert] and went on for 3¾ hours, when we breakfasted at foot of great couloir. Went on till 2.45 p.m., getting on steadily, and were then obliged to turn back, owing to want of time—only just got off mountain in time, and had to leave Lanier's axe and a piece of rope in order to descend the cheminée. We were higher than the Dru when we stopped, and close to the final arête. Got back to tent at 11 p.m.' The party consisted of Mr. Eccles, with the two Payots, W. E. D. and F. C. H., with Lanier and v. Bergen. Further particulars are given by Mr. Eccles in 'Pioneers,' p. 182. The route was completed the following year by Mummery, with Alexander Burgener.

1881, 44 days. 'Aug. 5, saw Mummery at the top of Aig. des Charmoz' [this is Mummery's ascent of the Grépon]. Little was done owing to continuous bad weather. Guide Jaun.

1882, 41 days. Guides, Hans and Andreas Jaun. Col des Hirondelles.

1883, 47 days. Guides, the two Payots and others. Aig. du Géant, Aig. Verte, Grand Dru (guides, Emile Rey and M. Savioz). Time ascent from Montanvert 7 hrs. 25 mins., on top 45 mins., descent 6 hrs.; absent 14 hrs. 10 mins.; nett walking 11 hrs. = very quick time. 'Found peak much easier than I expected. . . . Neither of the fixed ropes are in the least necessary and we didn't touch either of them.' Dossenhorn (guide, Melchior Anderegg).

1884, 55 days. Guides, Jaun and others. Gspaltenhorn, Lauterbrunnen Breithorn.

1885, 30 days. Guides, Jaun and others. Lauteraarhorn, Viescherhorn.

¹ Guides' pay at that time was 8 frs. rest day, 25 frs. for Col, 50 frs. for summit.



W. E. DAVIDSON.

SEPP INNERKOFLER,
of Sexten.

CHR. KLUCKER,
of Sils

(1898.)



FRANZ LOCHMATTER.

W. E. DAVIDSON.

JOSEPH POLLINGER.

Chamonix, 1905.

1886. Not out in summer. Went out in winter to Grindelwald. 'At noon the peasants began to assemble . . . and danced continuously up to 6 next morning, and continued at noon again, keeping it up till 5.30 next morning. In all the two days 2500 bottles of wine were consumed, or an average of five a-piece, including men and women.'

1887, 41 days. Guide, Jaun and others. Attempt on Petit Dru ('the mountain itself is, by very far, the hardest thing I have been on; the whole of it from the saddle upwards is of the very highest difficulty'), Jungfrauoch ('v. Bergen here performed a feat which certainly has never been excelled in the way of iceman-ship, cutting round a corner which absolutely surplumbed for some 200 feet on to a snow plateau below'), Mönch.

1888, 40 days. Guides, Jaun and others. Eigerjoch, Col du Chardonnet.

1889, 53 days. Guides, v. Bergen and others. Roseg, Gussfeldtsattel ('there is no doubt that a first-rate guide would consider it an easier pass than the Eigerjoch, as the wall is certainly not so long—not more than two-thirds at the outside. I am sure that if it had been black ice from top to bottom, v. Bergen and Jaun would have cut the whole of the steps in 3 hours, and I should give them 4 to 5 hours to perform the same on the Eigerjoch'), Bernina (first descent by Scharte), Brunegghorn, Biesjoch, Rothhorn (tr.), Matterhorn by the 'Enjambée des 3 Jean Baptistes,' from Breuil to Riffelalp in the day.

1890, 50 days. Guides, v. Bergen and others. Riffelhorn (thirty-eighth ascent), Triftjoch, Col de la Dent Blanche, Breithorn (N. face), Moming Pass, Mittelhorn, Wetterhorn, Lauteraarjoch, Strahlegg.

1891, 55 days. Guides, Chr. Almer and A. Stähli. Felikjoch, Lysjoch, Zwillingsjoch, Riffelhorn (forty-fourth ascent), Riffelhorn (first ascent by Matterhorn couloir), Jungfrau (from Rottal), Viescherjoch. 'The veteran was wonderful.'

1892, 41 days. Matterhorn traversed from Schwarzsee to Breuil, Mischabeljoch, Matterhorn couloir (second ascent).

1893, 54 days. Jumeaux, Charmoz (traverse), Petit Dru.

1894, 56 days. Trifthorn, Alphubel (second ascent by W.S.W. arête), Matterhorn (traversed, Italian hut to Zermatt), Grépon (traversed N. to S.—guides Alfred Simond and Klucker). It would appear that W. E. D.'s 1880 party was aiming for the Grépon and got into the Col close to the Mummery crack.

1895, 59 days. Klucker was guide for 56 days, and Daniel Maquignaz for 39 days.

Dom Gabelhorn (Trift over Wellenkuppe and Arbenjoch), Matterhorn (by Carrel's Galerie), Dom-Täschhorn traverse, Matterhorn (Z'Muttgrat), Schmadrijoch, Bietschhorn (N. to W. traverse).

1896, 62 days. Klucker was again in attendance. We veterans well remember the terribly broken season. After a few days at the

Riffel and making his ninetieth ascent of the Riffelhorn—in some years he did as many as ten ascents of this peak—Davidson left with Klucker for his first visit to the Dolomites. They ascended Cristallo, Croda da Lago² by old route (descent via Sinegaglia), Sorapiss² by Müllerweg (descent Grohmannweg), Piz Popena³ from Cristalljoch (Klucker considered this difficult), Dreischuster from Innerfeld, Kl. Zinne by N. face, Zwölfer, Elfer, Fermedathurm, Pelmo.²

1897, 62 days. Guides Klucker and Innerkofler: Périades, Cardinal, Langkofel traverse N. to S., Fünffinger-spitze (Schusterweg-N. Kamin: Schmittkamin-Daumenscharte: from Grohmanngl-N. Daumengrat: from Langkofeljoch, up and down). Grohmannspitze (Johanneskamin-Leiterweg), Winkler, Stabeler, Figlio di Rosetta, Cima di Cuseglio, Delago, Santner and Euringersp.

1898, 60 days. Guides Klucker and Innerkofler. Monte Rosa, Mominghorn (traversed to Mountet), Col Durand, Strahl-Rympfischhorn, Hohberghorn-Nadelhorn, Cimone della Pala, Pale di San Martino, Cima della Madonna (Winklerkamin), Gr. Zinne, Tofana (via inglese).

1899, 59 days. Guides Klucker and U. Almer. Scerscen-Bernina Traverse, Ortler from Hochjoch, Königsspitze, Zebbru traversed, Cima Tosa-Crozzon, Presanella, Viso, Ecrins.

1900, 58 days. Guides Klucker and Almer. Schallihorn (traversed) Dent d'Hérens (descent to Breuil), Breithorngrat (traverse), Balmhorn-Altels, Mönch (from Kl. Scheidegg), Riffelhorn (15 times).

1901, 58 days. Guide Almer. Obergabelhorn (Trift to Mountet) Rothhorn (tr.) Riffelhorn (17 times).

1902, 57 days. Guides Jules Lochmatter, Joseph Pollinger and Almer. Breithorn (N. face descended), Weisshorn by Schalligrat. This ascent made twenty-five years after his ascent by the S.E. face evidently gave great satisfaction. It enabled him to fix very nearly the junction of his arête on the S.E. face with the main arête and agrees with my own observations the following year, but I think his estimate of this point being only 800 ft. below the summit is much understated, since my party, travelling fairly fast, took 2 hours 20 minutes, which is the equivalent of 1200 ft. *at least*. Momingspitze (tr.) and first descent from Oberschallijoch to Zinal, Bieshorn, Riffelhorn (17 times including Matterhorn Couloir).

1903, 54 days. Guides Joseph Pollinger and Franz Lochmatter. Much bad weather. Riffelhorn (10 times, making 160 in all), Fletschhorn-Laquinhorn, Südlenz sp., Nadelhorn (Mischabel Hut to St. Niklaus).

1904, 47 days. Guides as above. No particular expeditions.

1905, 57 days. Guides as above. Blaitiere and Meije (traverse).

² Guides Klucker and M. Barbaria.

³ Guides Klucker and Sepp Innerkofler for all the others.

1906, 60 days. Guides Joseph and Heinrich Pollinger. Arbenjoch-Mont Durand, Ludwigshöhe to Sesiajoch (ridge climb), Matterhorn (7th ascent and 6th traverse) by Carrel's Galerie, Riffelhorn (9 times, including new routes).

1907, 54 days. Guides J. Pollinger and F. Lochmatter. Weissmies (tr.), Les Bouquetins, Aig. Rouges. (Guides often lent.)

1908, 57 days. Guides as above. Vincent Pyramide, Pta. Giordani. Much bad weather. Riffelhorn (200th ascent).

1909, 58 days. Guides as above. Aig. de la Persévérance and small expeditions. Much bad weather.

1910, 56 days. Guides as above. Rothhornjoch, Col Durand. Much bad weather. Riffelhorn (218th ascent).

1911, 56 days. Guides Pollinger (34 days), Lochmatter (44 days). Pointe de Zinal. Zinal Rothhorn (from Rothhornjoch), his fifth ascent, Grand Combin. This was his last great expedition, so that his Alpine career proper may be said to have lasted from 1874 to 1911. Riffelhorn (his 229th ascent).

1912, 53 days. Guides, Pollinger (42 days), Lochmatter (54 days). Riffelhorn (his 238th ascent), many walks. Guides often lent.

1913, 53 days. Guides, Lochmatter and Pollinger. Riffelhorn (his 250th ascent), Adler.

The next year came the war. He made his 251st ascent of the Riffelhorn in that year, and his 252nd in 1920 ; and so the climbing chapter ended, although in 1921 and 1922 he returned to his old quarters at the Riffelalp and held his little court, issuing his edicts, receiving with an old-world charm his old friends and other properly vouched for individuals. To others the *entrée* was not easy.

It is not easy to sum up an Alpine career like his—some will wonder why, with such opportunities, he did not do even more, incomplete as the record possibly is.

Long as his yearly visits to the Alps were, diversions other than mountaineering occupied much time.

His earlier years covered the gorgeous heyday of the Eagle's Nest and of the Pasteur House at Grand Saconnex. Who can ever forget the sweet welcome of Mr. and Mrs. Pasteur and their family ? At these houses he was a frequent guest. What chance had a mere mountain when the young joyous life which filled those super-hospitable houses called ? Was it not quite good enough to look on Mt. Blanc from the riant slopes of Gd. Saconnex ? The restless energies of Jack and Billy Wills must at times have sat heavily on him !

Picnics, cricket matches, dances, took time. To attractions such as these we of the sterner, wandering school were—at least I imagine so—immune.

Many of his Riffelhorn ascents, his threading every intricate way through the Gorner icefall, were, in effect, entertainments for his youthful and other friends. His guides were generously placed at their disposal. He knew every servant at the Riffelalp—they were

his people. It was his second home. He took a keen interest in the kaleidoscope life of a fashionable hotel. Nothing escaped him.

Moreover he was not a climber pure and simple. He was not prepared to sacrifice comfort or forego good quarters. He would take no chances. He would never climb in any but practically certain weather, which, no doubt, made him miss many expeditions. He never came near having any accident, and there is no record of any impromptu bivouac. He was essentially the orthodox mountaineer, attended always by the best of guides,⁴ with a strong tendency to condemn such excrescences as guideless climbing and extreme expeditions. He spent a sedentary life for ten months in the year, and had to make good, in comfort, the wear and tear of a busy life. In his earlier years he was a man of great activity, and, as Mr. Hartley—himself fleetest of foot—tells us, a rapid and sure mover on rock and ice. His expeditions bear testimony to his powers. But as years went by, even at forty, he had great trouble to subdue increasing weight and to get fit. He was, above all things, a Centrist, attached to Zermatt and the Riffel, where he knew everybody and everything.

He had more experience of great guides than any mountaineer. Thus he had in his service at various times, Lanier, Jaun, Rey, v. Bergen, old Christian Almer, Melchior Anderegg, Ulrich Almer, Klucker, Daniel Maquignaz, Sepp Innerkofler, Joseph Pollinger, Franz Lochmatter. His attachment to the two latter was very warm, and he took them year after year, more out of old habit than for any considerable use he made of their services. He remembered to leave them legacies of £100 each.

Mr. J. W. and Mr. F. C. Hartley were his earlier climbing companions, then Mr. Seymour Hoare and Mr. Cullinan, while Mr. Gerald FitzGerald can count upwards of forty years' close companionship with him in the Alps, and was often his climbing companion.

He was Hon. Secretary from 1881 to 1885, but then for over twenty years took no part in the affairs of the Club through some differences, the origin of which has long passed from the memories of men. He was at last prevailed upon to become an extra Member of Committee, where his knowledge of procedure, his great experience, the charm of manner which he could exhibit, soon marked him out for high office.

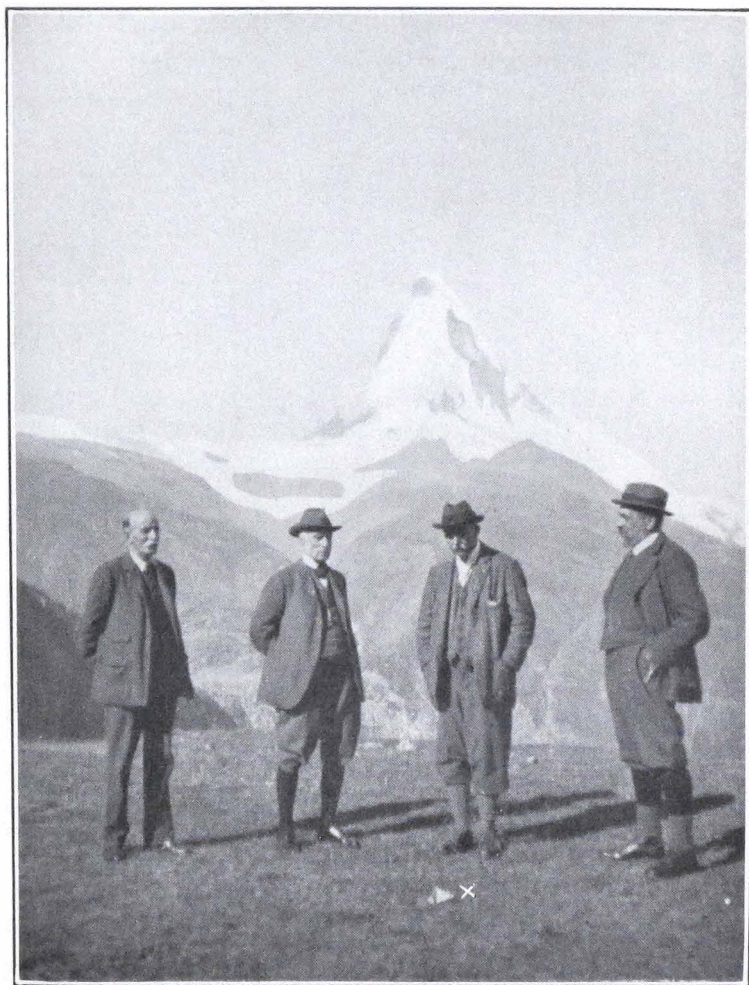
He was elected President for the term 1911–13. His services as such are fresh in our minds, as are those of Charles Wollaston, the long-time Hon. Secretary who ran three Presidents. He was heart and soul in the Club. I do not think anything counted in his life as did it, and what it represented to him. He was the Club incarnate.

⁴ When the Pilkingtons formed their first guideless party, he was invited to join them—a sufficient testimony, by eminent judges, to his powers, but family reasons forbade his acceptance.



W. E. DAVIDSON

about 1890.



SIR EDWARD AT THE RIFFELALP, 1922.

His help to me with the JOURNAL was never-failing, and his constructive and sound criticism steered me through many difficulties which occur in its production.

He was a man of strong opinions—not to say prejudices. There was a certain hauteur about him, a certain F.O. manner, but he carried it well. No man could take a liberty with him, and there are amusing tales told of his treatment of too *empresé* casual acquaintances. No doubt his return to the Club, his years of office, did much to mellow him, to make him more approachable, while his knowledge and experience were always at the service of young mountaineers. He was, above everything, absolutely accurate. He had a great sense of humour.

The Zermatt district he knew as did no other man. He possessed an extensive knowledge of the Mont Blanc chain and of the Dolomites. He had helped make history for nearly fifty years, and there is scarce a man now living whose knowledge of practical and historical mountaineering equals his.

I made his acquaintance in 1881, at the old rooms in St. Martin's Place, but owing to absence abroad I saw little of him until fifteen years ago. Our tastes and the common tie of the Club then threw us much together. He was one of those absolutely loyal friends—you could ask his opinion and he would take the trouble to think the matter out, and would advise you, wisely and well, quite regardless of any prepossession he could quite well see you held. I recall *tête-à-tête* dinners at 8, and I would turn out at 2 A.M., having talked Alps and kindred subjects and people all the time in that care-free, open-guard way that is the symptom of great friendship.

I was outward-bound to Africa last winter. We had not seen eye to eye over an incident in the Club. I went to say good-bye—we discussed the matter. I took nothing back. He listened and said next to nothing. He did not give way easily either. Then I turned to go. He followed me, ailing as he was, down the stairs, and as I said good-bye there came into his face a look that told me all was well between us. On my return six months later, I went straight from the station to see him. He was no better. Two months later he sent me a message to say he was knocked over by the heat. Next day his man rang through to tell me of his death. The Club loses one of its most devoted sons—the craft a distinguished exponent—I, him.

J. P. F.

THE LATE LORD STERNDALÉ, MASTER OF THE ROLLS

LORD STERNDALÉ was a member of the Alpine Club for nearly thirty years and during most of that time spent his summer holidays in the Alps. Some account of his climbs

and of him, as a climber, will probably be welcome to readers of the *ALPINE JOURNAL*.

It was in 1890 that he first took to climbing. He and I began going abroad together in 1887, and from that year till 1892, with the exception of 1889 when I was at sea, we took our long vacation holidays every year somewhere in the Alps. At first they were of the usual tourist kind and not confined to mountain tramps. In 1888 we heard Parsifal at Bayreuth and the Meistersingers at Munich; we went to the Passion Play at Oberammergau in 1890; we looked at pictures in Amsterdam and Dresden and Venice, but down to 1890 most of our time was spent in walking across the Tyrol and the Engadine by the mule passes or in the Valais and Central Switzerland below the snow line. He was always the best of companions as he was the best of friends.

Pickford—I cannot otherwise speak of him—was at first as much disposed as a tolerant and broad-minded temperament would permit to pooh-pooh the climbing of peaks and, when I rather hankered after ‘doing’ something or other, he inclined to hint that it was not worth while. In 1889, however, I do not know with whom, he went up one of the peaks in the Valais, I think the Allalinhorn, and I found him at Saas Fee in 1890 more than willing to climb, for he had been much taken with his experience of the year before. Accordingly, with Xavier Imseng, we went up two or three peaks, of which the Ulrichshorn was one and the Alphubel another. From that time onward Pickford was a convinced and a determined climber. Next year, with Blumenthal and Peter Ruppen as guides, and in company with R. and C. Arkle, we had quite a long though an unambitious season, first at Saas im Grund and afterwards at Arolla. The number of climbs we made was respectable, though as beginners we prudently chose, or had chosen for us, things suitable to our inexperience. However, among the rest we did the Dom and the Aiguille de la Za by the Western face. In 1892 I joined him at Zermatt, when he had already done Castor, the Wellenkuppe and the Rothhorn, and we did the Ober Gabelhorn, the Rimpfischhorn, the Matterhorn and the Weisshorn. On the day we did the Matterhorn the mountain was busy, for, in addition to R. and C. Arkle, Sir Edward Davidson climbed the peak from Zermatt and Sir Claud Schuster traversed it to Breuil. I recollect also two young gentlemen from the United States in white flannel trousers and, I think, in walking shoes, who were ascending their first peak. I doubt if they reached the top, but at any rate they safely returned to the bottom.

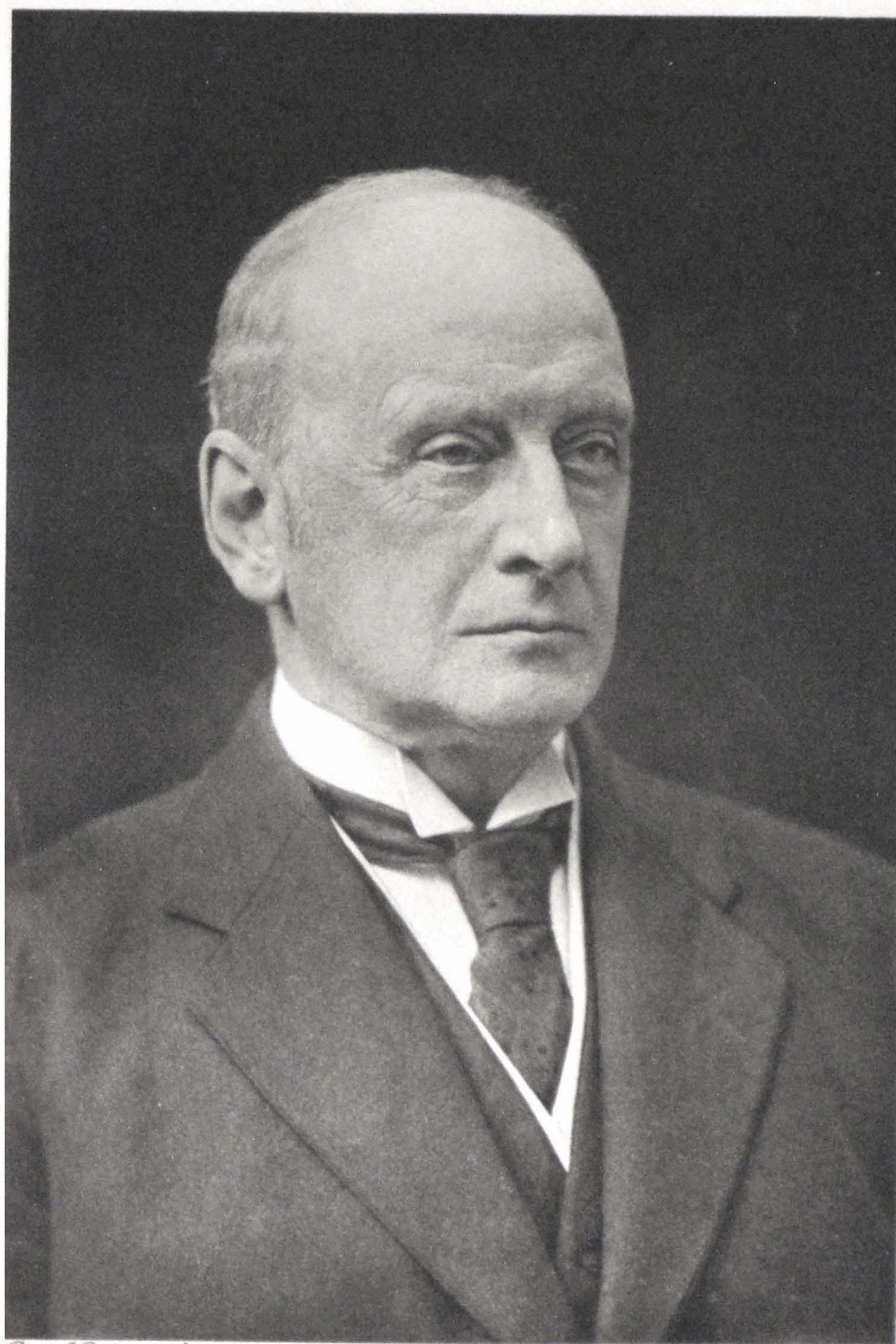


Photo. J. Russell & Sons.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Sterndale.

From this year Pickford climbed steadily every season until 1904, generally with R. and C. Arkle and always with Alois and Roman Anthamatten. As I ceased to climb after 1892 I cannot speak personally of his achievements. In 1894 he was at Montanvert and Cogne and climbed among other mountains the Grandes Jorasses, the Aiguilles des Charmoz, the Grivola and the Grand Paradis. He was in the Tyrol and the Dolomites next year and climbed the Ortler, the Fünffingerspitz and the Croda da Lago. In 1895 he did a considerable number of peaks in the Maderanerthal district. Then he returned to the Valais for the next six years, more often in the Saas valley than anywhere else. Among the many climbs recorded during this time are the Südlenzspitz, with descent on the Saas side, in 1897, the Breithorn from the N. side, the Riffelhorn by the Matterhorn Couloir, the Lyskamm, and the Dent Blanche (1898). From this time, often in consequence of bad weather, his seasons' results were less noticeable, but in 1903 he did the Petits Charmoz, and in 1904 Mont Dolent. I believe that at sometime he climbed the Grépon, but I do not know when, and it is not in the list of his climbs, with which his family have kindly supplied me, so I may be mistaken. In 1905 he did nothing, though he was in Switzerland. His last peak was Mont Blanc from the Tête Rousse in 1906, accomplished with much pluck and good humour, though he suffered acutely in the descent from the effects of an injury to his knee, which put further serious climbing out of the question. He continued to go to Switzerland for many years afterwards, and was President of the Alpine Club 1914-1916, but his Presidency fell during the War when the Club's activities were necessarily restricted.

His was a long and very full record of hard climbing, and he loved the work and the mountains. He did not belong to the heroic age of pioneers, and virgin peaks did not come his way. He attempted no guideless climbs, and was content with the leadership of the competent guides, to whom he was much attached. So far as I know, he never had an accident or even an adventure. His good sense told him that to encounter avoidable risks is not much credit to anybody.

Of his technique as a climber I am not competent to judge. I was only with him in his first three seasons, and my own experience never qualified me to criticise others. It might have been thought that he would be clumsy on rocks and unsteady on ice, but in fact he was neither. He stood over six feet, was massively built, and probably on a climb weighed fourteen stone or more, but he was perfectly steady and solidly

planted, and on rocks he was not slow. He would not be hurried ; he was very independent in negotiating an awkward place, and, though his build made him look a little unhandy, he was from the first very workmanlike. I never remember him sending down stones, though I wish I could forget my own. His endurance was very great. I only saw him tired once, at the end of a punishing day from Saas im Grund over the Mischabeljoch to Zermatt with much soft, deep snow on the Saas side of the Col, which obliged us to force the pace coming down in order to get off the glacier before dark.

There are probably many members of the Alpine Club who have seen him climbing, and can say what he was like in later years, but from what I can learn he was to the end the same imperturbable, firm and steady climber, always trustworthy in the part he was to play, always simple and content to be guided by anyone, whose experience and skill were greater than his own.

It is to be remembered that Pickford never climbed a peak till he was over forty years of age ; that he continued to climb till he was fifty-eight ; and that his life at home was the sedentary life of a lawyer, and the toilsome life of a lawyer with a great practice. As far as he could he always kept himself in hard exercise. When he lived in Liverpool he used to run with the beagles in Cheshire. He cycled a great deal, and at King-Sterndale his favourite exercise to the end was a long tramp. Nothing but his extraordinarily perfect physique and a constitutional strength, which seemed proof against weakness, could have enabled him at his age to stand up successfully to the work of sixteen consecutive seasons of steady climbing.

This is not the place to speak of his great qualities as a lawyer, an advocate and a judge, of his rapidity of apprehension, his unerring memory, and the instinctive rightness of his conclusions. He passed from one judicial office to another by a kind of inevitable progression. Owing nothing to favour, nothing to politics, and nothing to advertisement, by the plain titles of worth and efficiency he attained to posts of the highest eminence and responsibility, and filled them in a manner that distinguished him even among his many distinguished predecessors. His legitimate ambition was gratified by these promotions, but twice at least in his later years they were undertaken chiefly at the call of public duty. If they had fallen to other men, he would have seen them pass him by without a thought of jealousy or even a feeling of disappointment.

On the Circuit which he led so long, he was the unquestioned arbiter of all questions of difficulty ; the kindly friend of the young and the equal companion of all ; in a word ' the Circuit's big brother.' On the Bench he was a tower of strength to his colleagues. No one ever differed from him in opinion without a qualm. His private kindnesses and charities were many, though known to few. If he had enemies—for there are some whose enmity is their form of homage and admiration—his unaffected simplicity was unconscious of them, and his forgiveness was to be had for the asking.

He died in his sleep at the age of seventy-five, still in harness, still in the prime of life. *Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit.* I have known no man who has left among his friends such a sense of irreparable loss.

SUMNER.

THOMAS MIDDLEMORE.¹

1842–1923.

ON May 16, 1923, Thomas Middlemore, of Hawkesley and Melsetter, died of pneumonia after a week's illness at his Orkney home in his 82nd year.

He was born of an old Worcestershire family at Edgbaston on February 11, 1842, and educated at the Proprietary School there and in Paris. After a few years in his father's office he undertook the management of the family business of which he eventually became the owner. In October 1881 he married Theodosia Anderson Mackay, of Kinlochbervie in Sutherland, who survives him. He retired from business in 1896 and two years later purchased the Melsetter Estate in Orkney (comprising the islands of Hoy, Walls, Fara and Rysa) where he built himself a beautiful home. He was a J.P. for the counties of Orkney and of Worcester.

Thomas Middlemore always lived strenuously. Throughout his life he never relaxed his efforts to keep fit and to work. In his younger days though expending great energy on his business he yet found time to graduate as B.A. at the University of London and to follow whole-heartedly such recreations as hunting, boxing, and mountaineering. He also held a commission for some years in the Warwickshire Rifle Volunteers.

During his last 25 years he devoted himself chiefly to his Melsetter estate—constructing roads and building piers for the welfare of the islanders, and making successful experiments in agriculture. Moreover he was a keen sportsman and with his many guests greatly enjoyed the excellent shooting and fishing on the estate.

¹ A portrait appeared in *A.J.* xxxii. opp. 100.

Early in the War he made Melsetter open house to the officers of the Grand Fleet stationed at Scapa Flow : and he and his charming wife welcomed hundreds of officers for refreshment and rest during the four great years, so that an Admiral on hearing of his death wrote : ' Those who served in the Fleet in those waters now mourn for a real friend, whose hospitality was unbounded.'

To the end of his life he was erect and tall, strong and strikingly handsome. He spent his last winter at St. Ives in Cornwall, and there, years notwithstanding, he would play his daily round of golf with all his old perseverance and enthusiasm.

Vigour, continuity of purpose and chivalry were among the characteristics of Thomas Middlemore : and those who knew him best were well aware that the family motto—' *Mon d  sire loyalt  *'—was his life-long inspiration.

A. M. B.

Mr. Middlemore's Alpine career seems to me to deserve a special mention. He was elected to the Club on December 12, 1871, on the qualification :

Mont Blanc (from Col du Midi), G^{des} Jorasses, Monte Rosa, Strahlhorn, Lyskamm, Jungfrau, Aletschhorn, Col du G  ant, and other passes.

For the next five years there was no more strenuous climber in the Club.

In 1872, between July 4 and 26, he traversed Grand Combin, ascended Dom, traversed Matterhorn from a g  te on Swiss side to Breuil, returning next day by the Furgg, traversed Gabelhorn from Zermatt to Zinal. On the Matterhorn traverse he was accompanied by the late Mr. Gardiner, the guides being J.-J. Maquignaz, Hans Jaun, and Peter Knubel. The party (with the addition of S. Middlemore) is seen in the portrait, 'A.J.' xxxii. opp. 100.

In 1873 he ascended Eiger, M  nch, Aletschhorn ('A.J.' vi. 298, the route is not clear, but according to Jaun's 'F  hrerbuch,' p. 36, it was 'from the N. side—for the first time—' and accordingly anticipates the ascent of 1883), crossed Jungfraujo  , *descending* to Wengernalp, ascended Schreckhorn, traversed Rothhorn from Zermatt to Zinal, ascended Schallhorn from Moming pass (first ascent, 'A.J.' vi. 294 *seq.* and xxxiv. 113), traversed Mont Blanc by Kennedy's route from high g  te on S. side to Chamonix, and finally, with Leslie Stephen, made an attempt on the Charmoz—'beaten back by the last bit consisting of a slice of rock.' It is difficult to say how far they got. Guides were probably Hans Jaun and Chr. Lauener. Such an attempt at that period denoted a high degree of enterprise and skill.

In 1874 he was in the Mont Blanc group, made an attempt on the Verte—frustrated by bad snow and a storm. At that time and for years after the Verte was looked on as a very formidable affair. It was left to the Oberland guides—the Valais guides at that time

were little known—no guide in Chamonix being willing to go. On the descent the party, wet through, was benighted on a ledge at 11,500 ft.

The Col du Géant was crossed to Courmayeur, and then with T. S. Kennedy and the guides Johann Fischer, Hans Jaun, and possibly Ulrich Almer (see portraits, 'A.J.' xxxii. opp. 233) an attempt was made to ascend Mont Blanc from the Brouillard Glacier. The point aimed at was the Col now named Emile Rey. A soaking storm defeated the project and the party was benighted on a ledge of rocks. A fortnight later J. Garth Marshall and Fischer were killed in repeating the attempt.

The weather that year was abominable. From a gîte at the top of the pastures Mr. Middlemore, with Jaun and Joseph Rey, crossed the Col des Grandes Jorasses.² His description of the climb provoked a storm, such as we have not witnessed in our time, and which can only be accounted for by assuming that the critics failed to read Middlemore's narrative with care. The climb was new, and naturally the rocks carried a good deal of loose stuff. Some of this got knocked down by the climbers and carried away two axes which had been perched instead of slung as they ought to have been. Middlemore's temperate reply brought his critics back to their bearings. The Col has been crossed several times since, and there appears no reason to consider it dangerous. The present-day view of the episode has been well summed up by a very competent judge, Raymond Bicknell, in his paper on the Col, in 'A.J.' xxxiii. 375.

In 1875³ we find Middlemore making an attempt on the Meije, then unclimbed. The note in his diary reads: 'From Gîte ascended to a point E. of the middle peak of the Meije, but found the mountain impracticable from bad state of snow.' From this one can almost assume that the intention was to try the 'arêtes' which at that time was considered the most likely line—i.e. along the arête from the Pic Central. Jaun's 'Führerbuch' throws no light, but the attempt shows what sort of traveller Middlemore was. Bad weather drove them to Courmayeur, where 'from a gîte on *Brenva* Glacier ascended Flambeaux, and from the arête descended the N. face (very steep ice-covered rocks, 3 hours), and joined Col du Géant route just above the séracs.' A fresh attempt on the Verte was frustrated by the dangerous state of the snow.

The next entry is very interesting, for had it been successful it would have forestalled H. Cordier, who, led by Jakob Anderegg, made, the next year, the first complete ascent of the Finsteraarhorn by the S.E. arête. The party slept at the Rothloch⁴ on the

² *A.J.* vii. 104, 225 and other references.

³ There is no entry in Jaun's book, although he was leading guide.

⁴ See *A.J.* xxx. 356. No photograph has yet reached me!

Fiescher Glacier on July 30. Next day : ' Left Gîte 2.55 A.M. Got to rocks below last Joch at 5.50. Breakfasted. Col, 7.45. Arête very long and difficult. Reached final arête 12.0. Found no passage up final peak, so descended and crossed Grünhornlücke to Faulberg in storm, 7 P.M. August 1, left Faulberg 8.30 ; Mönchjoch 1 P.M. ; Grindelwald 5.35. August 2, left hotel 2 P.M. ; Kastenstein 7 P.M. August 3, started 3.30 A.M. ; Finsteraarjoch 6.30-7.15 ; Agassizjoch 9.15 ; Hugisattel 11 ; summit of Finsteraarhorn 12.30. Failed to get down through gulley being choked by ice and snow. Jaun reports 150 ft. of rope wanted. Descended by Fiesch glacier and reached Fiesch 10 P.M.'

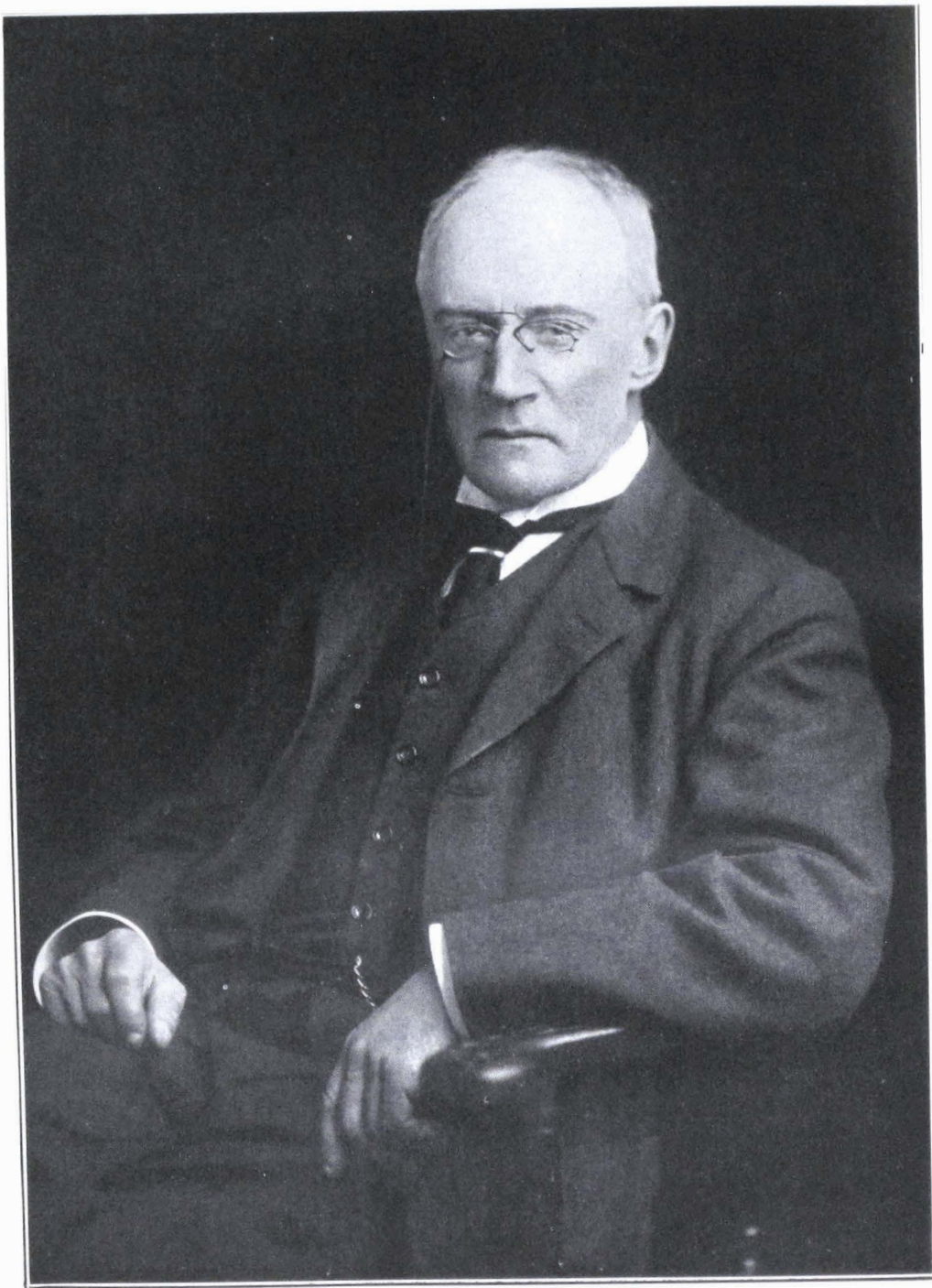
This extract shows that the party climbed along the S.E. arête of the Finsteraarhorn and got close under the summit, as far as the slab where a rope is fixed. This slab gave Jakob Anderegg great trouble when this ascent was first completed the following year. In 1883 it was all iced and gave my party a lot of work. One must assume that on Middlemore's attempt the conditions were even worse, and the slab possibly buried in hard snow or ice. This slab is only about 10 minutes from the summit. Foiled on the ascent, the party proceeded to climb the mountain by the ordinary route, with a view of *descending* to the highest point on the S.E. arête, reached by them three days earlier, but as stated did not succeed in this.

It was a misfortune to have failed so close to the goal. Yet there are still authorities who, without personal knowledge of the ground, are content to assert that Meyer's three men in 1812 succeeded in scarce better conditions where, sixty-three years later, a man like Jaun, then in his best years, and with great experience of difficult ascents, a master of the craft, failed !

We now come to 1876, his last year of serious mountaineering. His great climb is the ascent, on July 31, of his old enemy the Verte. He obtained complete satisfaction by making the first ascent from the Argentièrre Glacier. It was his first expedition of the year, as he went straight to Lognan directly he reached Chamonix—such was the heart and condition of the man.

The party consisted of Oakley Maund, H. Cordier, and himself, with the guides, Hans Jaun, Jakob Anderegg, and Kaspar Maurer.

The climb was fully described by Maund in 'A.J.' viii. 289 *seq.* Middlemore says : ' If we imagine three Momings interspersed with rock work on a par with the best bits of the Gabelhorn, we get a fair notion of the treat that kind heaven vouchsafed us.' Although this description does not, nowadays, indicate any great difficulty, the expedition is both long and arduous, and, moreover, even when you get to the summit you are by no means out of the wood. Jossi once told Sidney Spencer he would cut right up the couloir for a thousand francs ; and knowing a good deal of that mighty, if occasionally casual, mountaineer's performances, I am certain he would !



WILLIAM PATON KER.

The ascent has not been repeated, an attempt by Lord Wentworth's party, probably with the Laueners, having failed.

On August 4 the same party made the first ascent of the Courtes from the Argentière side. Times were : Lognan, 1.45 A.M. ; summit, 12.30 ; Jardin, 6 P.M. ; Chamonix, 10.30 P.M.

On August 7, they made the first ascent of the higher Droites—'left Pierre à Béranger, 2 A.M. ; Jardin, 9.30 ; summit, 11.45 ; Jardin, 6 P.M.' On the descent they were much endangered by stones. The incident is vividly described by Maund.

Middlemore and Cordier, with Jaun and K. Maurer, then moved to Pontresina, and on August 12 made an attempt on Piz Bernina by the Scharte arête. They, however, stopped short on Pizzo Bianco, making its first ascent, as, strange to say, the two guides reported the Scharte 'ganz unmöglich.'

Six days later the same party made the first ascent of Piz Roseg from the Tschierva Glacier, descending to the Sella Glacier, a strenuous ice expedition. These expeditions are described in 'A.J.' viii. 109 and 198 *seq.*

This practically ended his high-climbing career, though in 1878 he visited the Graians and Pontresina and was chamois shooting in the Engadine in 1876 and in the Engadine and Graians in 1878.

The career, if meteoric, is very remarkable, as it covers little else than first-rate climbs, made under very different conditions from nowadays. He often bivouacked, sleeping seldom in a hut, and never spared himself.

Between him and Jaun existed a great affection and respect.

Among his friends were Wm. and C. E. Mathews, Gardiner, Cordier, Maund, Lord Wentworth, T. S. Kennedy, Eccles, and Loppé.

This note would be incomplete without a reference to his writings. He had an incisive and interesting style well exhibited in his papers in volumes vii. and viii. of the 'A.J.,' but his great Alpine Paper is his appreciation of Jaun in 'Pioneers of the Alps.' There is no greater tribute in that book of great tributes.

J. P. F.

WILLIAM PATON KER.

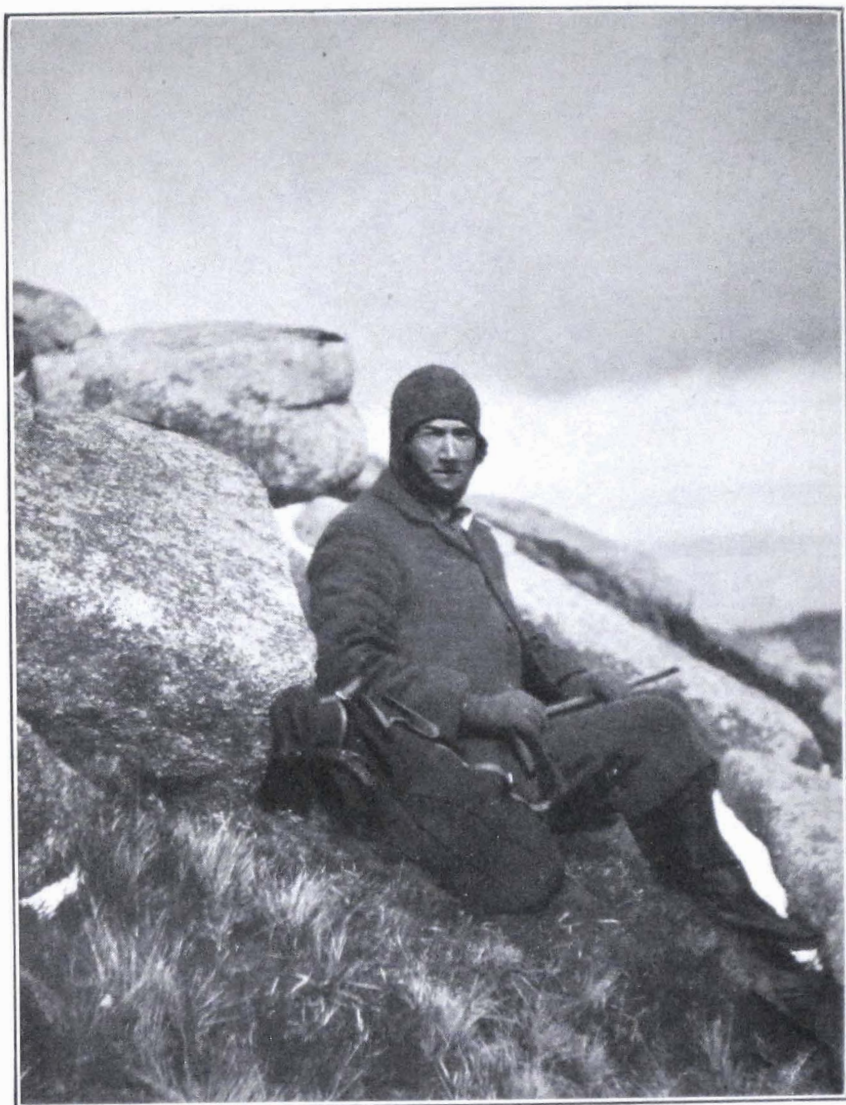
1855-1923.

THE death of W. P. Ker, Professor of Poetry in the University of Oxford, meant a loss to learning and literature, and to a very wide circle of friends ; and it was not to be expected that obituary notices of so eminent a man should contain much reference to the 'Alpine' side of his life. Yet his love of mountains was a most intimate part of his personality. It coloured his thought at all times and in all places : the Alpine Club never elected a worthier member, nor one

who was in a truer sense a mountaineer. He joined it in 1908. He had had three consecutive seasons in the Alps, and was then 52; he had begun climbing above the snow-line with a zeal usually associated with youth rather than middle age; in the years between 1906 and 1914 he was annually in the high mountains, and made a good many of the ordinary ascents in the Valais and the Graians, for the most part in the company of his friend Professor C. M. Thompson. He had four more fairly active seasons after the war.

Ker came too late in life to the Alps to be ever a perfect master of mountaineering technique. But he was a man of great physical strength, and indomitable courage and perseverance; many walks and climbs among Scottish and English hills, in the years which he confessed to have been unregenerate, had inured him to hardship. Not many expeditions tired him. If they did, as occasionally happened when he was well on the way to three-score and ten, he had a wonderful power of recuperation; he might be quite done up in the evening after a long and severe climb, but next morning he would have got over it and be as fresh as a young man. In 1921, being then 65 years of age, he crossed the Trifhorn from Zermatt to the Mountet, and returned two days after over the Rothhorn; rested for a day or so at Zermatt, then crossed the Matterhorn to the Italian hut; came back next day over the Furggenjoch to the Schwarzsee, had a night's rest, then climbed either Castor or Pollux—I forget which—and returned to Zermatt with no appearance of excessive fatigue, after an outing which might have tried the strength of a man in the prime of life. After that, it could not be expected that bad weather would prevent him from climbing the Finsteraarhorn, in 1922; nor did it.

Not for feats like these, remarkable enough as they were for an elderly man, will W. P. Ker be remembered; rather for that rare and singular temper which made him an ideal partner in any mountain expedition. That is what he was, for friends of all ages, but especially (I think) for men and women much younger than himself. He took a particular pleasure in their company, and they in his. They, and others, will long remember the peculiar intensity of enthusiasm which possessed him when he was walking or climbing among the High Alps. It was not generally (as his friends will readily understand) expressed in many words, and sometimes not in words at all; but it was there, burning in him like a fire, and somehow communicating itself to others. He was enjoying every moment. He idealised mountains; nothing in the whole business of mountaineering but seemed in a manner to him to have a kind of divine sanction; and the peasants who guided him ceased to be ordinary men, and became creatures divinely appointed to lead him into sacred places. Somehow in the Alps he seemed to be raised to a higher power. Merely to be on a climb or a high walk in noble scenery quickened his senses and his intellect. The Alps satisfied him, as great literature satis-



WILLIAM PATON KER.



WILLIAM PATON KER.

fied him. They brought out what was best in him ; and the best of W. P. Ker was pretty good.

He lies buried in the old churchyard of Macugnaga. That valley was the best loved of all his Alpine resorts ; and its Holy of Holies, to him, was the Pizzo Bianco, on which he died : ' this is my mountain,' he is reported to have said, only a little while before he sank down unconscious upon it. Some details of his last expedition have been described in a little account written by two ladies who were of his party, from which I am permitted to quote. ' We put out the lantern,' they say, ' at Alpe Rosareccia ; it was a most beautiful clear morning, and as we came into the corrie above the Alpe, where the stream runs shallow through grass and one can look out on the ring of Monte Rosa and see all the hills of Val Anzasca, he said, " I thought this was the most beautiful spot in the world, and now I know it." ' He had been, they say, ' very strong and happy that day.' After his death, ' as the guides were helping us down the rock, one of them said : " The soldier dies on the field and the sailor on the sea, and the mountaineer loves to die on the hills." It is what he would have loved to hear.'

A. D. G.

SIR HENRY HAYDEN

1869-1923

It was not until 1919 that Hayden and I became intimate. He was then Director of the Geological Survey, and I was dealing with mines and minerals as Deputy Secretary in the Commerce Department of the Government of India. We worked together during the strenuous days of post-war dislocation, of control and de-control ; and we spent our brief leisure together, walking and shooting in the Simla hills. We were from the first attracted to one another by our common love of the Himalaya, and I had no greater friend.

Hayden left India in the summer of 1920, and went home by South Africa and the Belgian Congo. We met again in London in the summer of 1921 for our long-planned visit to the Alps. It was Hayden's first visit to the Alps, and he put himself in my hands to show him what was best. We foregathered at Pralognan on July 6, and for five glorious weeks we wandered where we willed. With a couple of local men to carry our sacks, we walked over the hills from Pralognan to Val d'Isère, and thence to the little inn at Pont, at the head of the Val Savaranche. We climbed the Grand Paradis, and then crossed the Col du Grand Neiron and the Col de l'Herbetet to Cogne. From there we climbed the Grivola, and chartered the Aosta autobus to carry us the same evening to Courmayeur. At Courmayeur, on the recommendation of Henri

Brocherel, we engaged as guide César Cosson, with whom Hayden soon formed a close friendship.

A break in the weather diverted us from the Dôme hut, and we walked over the Col de la Seigne to Mottets. From there we crossed the Col des Glaciers to Trélatête, descended in heavy rain to Contamines, and reached Chamonix next day by train. We sat together, I remember, late that night watching the full moon rise behind the Aiguilles. A clear dawn afterwards sent us up to the Grands Mulets. The weather, however, was still unsettled, and our attempt on Mont Blanc ended in a blizzard at the Vallot Refuge. We descended again to the Grands Mulets, reached Montanvert by Pierre à l'Echelle and the Glacier des Pèlerins the same night, and returned to Courmayeur by the Col du Géant.

Our next journey was reminiscent of Himalayan travel. Collecting my family, two ladies and a boy of seven, we put them and their baggage on half a dozen mules, and marched over the Col Ferret into Switzerland. It was a merry day, and a merry evening afterwards. There were five of us, Cosson, and young David Revel, the son of the Guide-Chef at Courmayeur, whom we had engaged as porter, and six roystering Italian muleteers. We inundated the little inn at Ferret, and overflowed into the barns.

Hayden, Cosson and Revel left early next morning and crossed the Col de la Grande Luis to the Saleinaz Cabane. The muleteers returned to Italy. I drove down the valley with the family to Champex, and left again at midnight to rejoin Hayden the following morning on the top of the Portalet. We slept at the Dupuis Cabane, ascended the Aiguille du Tour and crossed the Fenêtre de Saleinaz to the Saleinaz Cabane. Next day we climbed the Aiguille d'Argentièrre, returned by the Col du Chardonnet to Praz de Fort, and reached Champex on the following morning. So ended July.

One day's halt at Champex, and then by Sembrancher and the Val de Bagnes to Chanrion. In cloud and mist we crossed the Col d'Oren to Prarayé. The inn, as usual, was closed. But we slept comfortably in a barn and, after a night of heavy rain, walked over the Col de Valcournera on a sparkling morning to Breuil. Thence to the hut at the Great Tower, and over the Matterhorn on a perfect day to Staffélalp. A hot trudge through soft snow across the Col d'Hérens and the Col de Bertol brought us to Arolla. The next day we went by the Col de Seilon to the Val de Bagnes, and so back to Champex. There we parted, on August 10.

In the autumn Hayden returned to India. We had agreed, if all were well, to meet at Cuneo on June 1, 1922, and march through the Maritime and Cottian Alps, Dauphiné, and the Graian Alps, following as far as possible the watershed, to Courmayeur. While in India, however, Hayden was invited to examine the mineral deposits of Tibet. Accompanied by Cosson, he spent the summer of 1922 in Lhasa and Tibet. Their experiences are recorded in a book which is being published in French. Hayden returned to



SIR H. H. HAYDEN.

CÉSAR COSSON.

Taken at Darjeeling
on their return from Thibet
in 1922.

England at the end of the year, and in January our Courmayeur party once more dined together at the Oriental Club, the night before I left for India.

During the spring Hayden was busy with his book on Tibet. He was more than once at Courmayeur for discussions with Cosson, from whose diaries the book was partly compiled. He stayed at Cosson's farm, enjoying to the full the simple alpine life. In the early summer, again accompanied by Cosson, he was fishing in the Italian valleys of Monte Rosa. In August they went to the Oberland, and there they died.

Hayden was, first of all, a great mountain traveller. His knowledge of the Himalaya and of Himalayan travel was unrivalled. He was fond enough of a climb for its own sake, but it would never have interested him to stay in one centre merely to climb. A peak was a stage in a journey. He climbed to the top in order to go down the other side. He went through the Alps as though he were marching through the Himalaya, taking everything in his stride. He was a fast and tireless walker, and at fifty odd years he was always in hard condition. With his ice-axe across his shoulders, and his geological hammer dangling from his fingers, he would stride in at the end of the longest day, apparently as fresh as when he started.

Hayden was a great shikari, and the game on the mountains was almost as interesting to him as the mountains themselves. In the Alps he was always on the look out for game and, with his keen and trained sight, he saw more in a season than many see in a lifetime. His love of shikar was shared by Cosson, who was a notable chasseur in his own valley, and they collected some fine trophies during their travels in Tibet.

In his work Hayden combined, to a remarkable degree, devotion to pure science and shrewd business sense. His opinion on all matters relating to mining, whether minerals, metals or oil, was eagerly sought by the commercial world. During the war he did high public service in mobilising and developing the mineral resources of India. He was in the Hindu Kush and the Pamirs during the summer of 1914, and the outbreak of war found him at Kashgar. He hurried home, across Turkestan and Russia, to join the Army, but he was at once sent back to India, to do there the work for which he was supremely competent. His heart, however, was always in the firing line, and it fretted his gallant spirit that he was not permitted the honour of active service.

But it is as a man that we, who knew him, shall most remember and most miss him. He had the compelling charm of chivalrous simplicity. 'To be honest, to be kind—to earn a little and to spend a little less': it might have been his rule of life.

G. L. C.

Sir HENRY HAYDEN was proposed for the Club by Mr. Freshfield, seconded by Professor Garwood, on the qualification :

- 1898. 7 months in Spiti Himalaya.
- 1899. 8 " " "
- 1901. 8 " " " and Ladakh.
- 1903-4. 1 year in Sikkim, Himalaya, and Tibet.
- 1905. 3 months in Hindu Kush in Hunza, Nagar and Gilgit.
- 1907. 3 " " " Afghanistan.
- 1914. 4½ " " " Chitral and Hunza and
 Great Pamir Range (Russian Pamirs) and Alai
 Mountains.
- 1921. Grand Paradis, Grivola, Mt. Blanc (but only to Vallot
 Hut owing to weather), Aig. du Tour, Aig. d'Argentière,
 Matterhorn traverse from Italian side.
 Cols de la Vanoise, Galise, Nivolet, Neiron, Herbetet,
 Seigne, des Glaciers, du Géant, Gde Luis, des Plines,
 Fenêtre de Saleinaz, du Chardonnet, d'Oren, Val-
 cournera, d'Hérens, Bertol, Pas de Chèvres, Seilon.

In 1923 he and Cosson had ascended Diablerets, Wildhorn, Wildstrubel, Jungfrau from Rottal.

Mr. R. S. Strachey, lately of the Indian Service, and a close friend of Sir Henry Hayden, has been at great pains to obtain information as to the accident. It bears out Mr. Gurtner's account. Mr. Strachey adds: 'The toughest job Hayden ever did was probably his journey from India over the Pamirs and, I think, Chinese, and certainly Russian Turkestan, alone (except for porters), arriving at the Russian outposts to hear that the Great War had just started.'

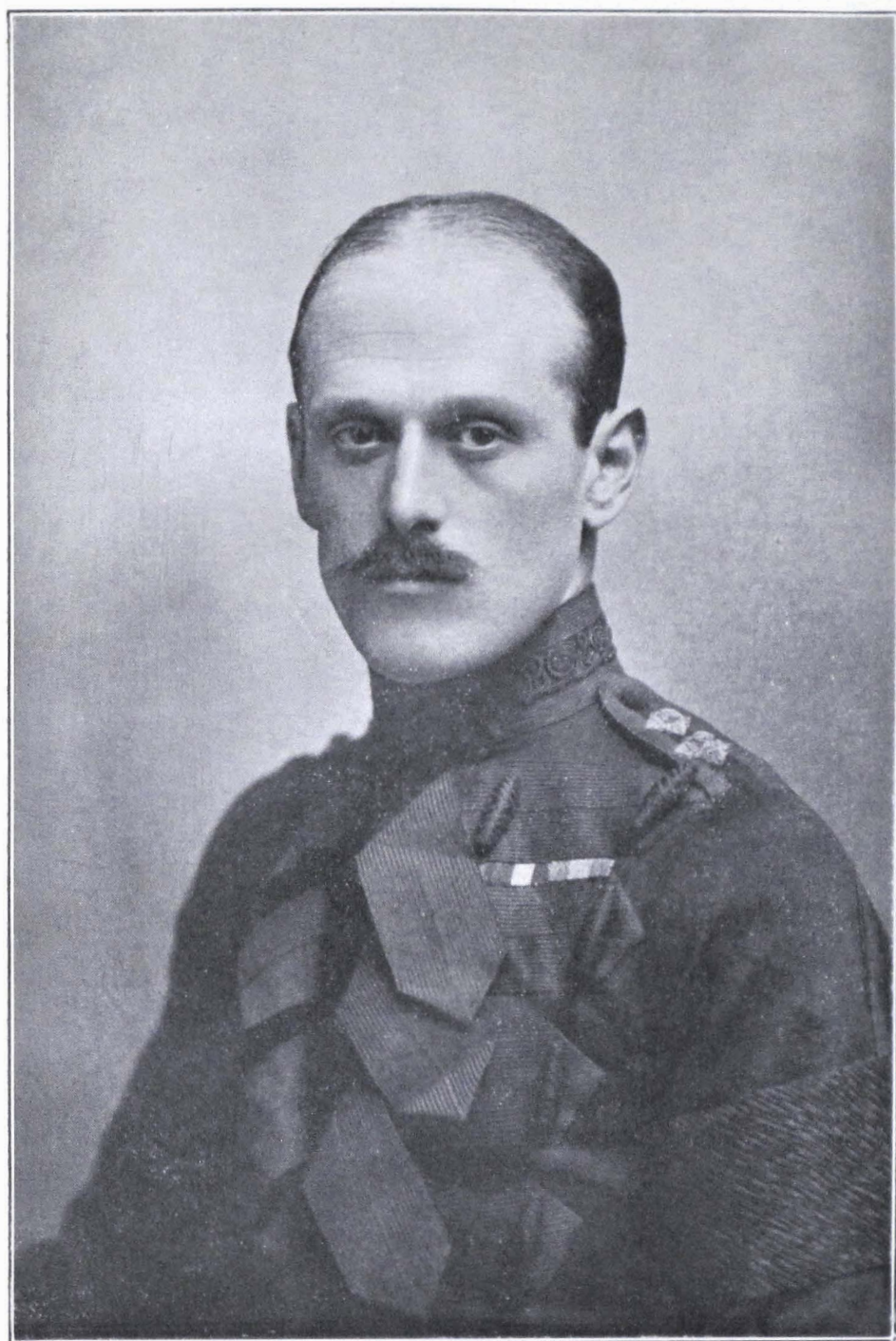
LIEUT.-COLONEL LAWRIE C. F. OPPENHEIM, C.M.G.

1871-1923.

THE British Army has lost one of its most distinguished soldiers, and the Alpine Club a very keen and most capable mountaineer.

Lawrie was educated at Harrow at Mr. Bowen's House. During the holidays Mr. Bowen used to take him for walking tours in the Alps, and the influence of his old House Master, for whom Lawrie had the greatest respect and affection, was present throughout his life. After leaving Harrow, Lawrie went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took Honours in History.

His was indeed in many ways a most interesting and adventurous career. In one capacity or another he had seen far more active service than falls to the lot of the ordinary individual soldier, and no one was better fitted by nature and temperament to appreciate the difficulties of a campaign, the capabilities of a leader, or the mentality of an enemy. He had the crowning gift of imagination.



LT.-COLONEL L. C. F. OPPENHEIM, C.M.G.

His career did not at first appear as fated to be that of a soldier; his tastes seemed to be more of a literary nature. In 1897, however, his opportunity came, and he joined the Tirah Field Force as an accredited war correspondent. He served throughout that arduous and nerve-racking campaign, meeting on several occasions Captain Charles Bruce, then commanding the Gurkha Scouts of the Force. Attached to the Northamptonshire Regiment (48th), Lawrie was present at Dargai and all the principal engagements. He returned from India in time to join the Nile Expedition, then in the final stages of the advance to Khartum, and was present at the decisive battle of Omdurman. Of that picturesque struggle between the fanatical survivors of barbarism and ourselves he has often described, in articles and conversation, some of the most striking episodes. He stood in front of the line at the moment of Macdonald's famous change of front, and has often mentioned the dramatic moment when the Egyptian battalion immediately behind him first caught sight of the rapidly advancing waves of Dervishes, and, without a sound, turned, broke, and was no more, and of the grinning, yelling lines of gallant Soudanese who rushed up to fill the gap in the front. For his services he received the two medals and clasp.

A year later, in October 1899, on the outbreak of the South African War, Lawrie hurried out to the Cape, still in the capacity of a War Correspondent. So black was the outlook on his arrival, that he at once enlisted as a trooper in Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry. With that hard-bitten unit he took part in the Spion Kop fight, and for his gallantry in that desperate and much criticised engagement was promoted an officer. It was while serving in Thorneycroft's that Lawrie first met his great friend 'Jimmy' Shea, now a most distinguished Lieutenant General. On the break-up of Thorneycroft's, Lawrie was specially promoted Captain and transferred to the Scottish Horse. Later again he was given a Captain's Commission in the Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards), and with this distinguished cavalry regiment fought right through the latter stages, being present at the final defeat of Delarey, the last engagement of the war. He was awarded the two medals and nine clasps. Later, on the return of the regiment to England, Lawrie qualified for the Staff College. In 1911 he left the Bays and transferred in the same year to the 4th Bn. Highland Light Infantry (Special Reserve). Previous to this transfer he had been employed for five years at the War Office in writing the later volumes of the official history of the South African War. His work speaks for itself.

Soon after the outbreak of the European War, Lawrie was posted to the 2nd Bn. H.L.I. (74th), 5th Brigade, 2nd Division. With those grim Scotsmen he was present at the Aisne, the Race to the Sea, and the immortal first battle of Ypres. He witnessed the break through of the Guard Corps, when 4000 Prussians, apparently with nothing

between them and Calais, were counter-attacked by a single weak battalion of the 5th Brigade (2nd Oxford & Bucks L.I., 52nd), and driven back headlong across the front of the 74th, where they fell in swathes under the fire of endless 'mad minutes.' Lawrie often spoke of one incident as the most impressive sight he had ever seen—the attempted rallying of the broken, yet still splendid, Guards regiments to the beat of the drum, in full view and at point-blank range of his battalion, when even darkness could not still the slaughter and the Scots killed over 700 Germans by indirect rifle fire towards the sound of the drums. Two days later, Lawrie's regimental service ended abruptly. Severely wounded through the thigh by shrapnel, he was invalided home. On his discharge from hospital and rewarded by a Brevet Majority, he was appointed in 1915 Military Attaché at The Hague. It is quite safe to say that in this capacity he rendered services to the Entente which even now can hardly be sufficiently appreciated.¹ His work was unique; there is no record of the methods which, peculiarly his own, enabled him to solve the most obscure and baffling of problems. More cannot be said; war will always exist; discretion must be maintained. As an Intelligence Officer Lawrie had no superior, possibly no equal. A Brevet Lieutenant-Colonelcy, the C.M.G., and many Entente Orders rewarded his war services.² In 1920 he was transferred as Military Attaché to Berne, and subsequently, in 1922, as British Military Representative to the Permanent Advisory Commission of the League of Nations at Geneva.³ It is an open secret that he was destined for a much higher post.

Elected first to the Alpine Club in 1899, Lawrie subsequently resigned for a time, returning to us in 1911. Of his lengthy Alpine career it is sufficient to say that, I believe with the exception of Dauphiné, the Cottians and the Maritimes, Lawrie had climbed in every part of the Alps; he had also travelled and shot extensively in Kashmir. Most of his earlier climbs were accomplished with his brother-in-law,⁴ Gerald Arbuthnot, who fell in the European War, and the Jossi family. Later he climbed with different members of three generations of the Pollinger family, notably with 'young'

¹ I have before me a letter from the late D.M.I. addressed to his widow. It describes Lawrie's services as 'simply invaluable.' The letter goes on to add: 'He is one of those people that we cannot replace.'

² Among these decorations is the Dutch Order of Orange Nassau, a proof of the esteem in which he was held by a Neutral Government.

³ I have also been privileged to read the deeply appreciative official letter from Sir R. Graham, late British Minister at The Hague, to the War Office on Lawrie's departure. A recent letter from Admiral Jehenne of the League of Nations (French) Advisory Committee is equally flattering.

⁴ Lawrie was carrying Arbuthnot's ice-axe on the day of the accident.

Alois, who, except in the Dolomites, was usually his leader. It was a sad, if fitting, coincidence that the youngest member of that unique family should have been his companion on July 12, 1923. He had also climbed much without guides, especially in winter. Few Englishmen were better acquainted with mountaineering conditions at all seasons of the year.

As his companion on some eighty expeditions, summer and winter, I knew Lawrie's form well. Gifted with great strength and steadiness, he was an eminently safe companion. Indeed, his only fault was a too great confidence in his really remarkable powers of endurance. If necessary, he could move with great speed and sureness. As a skier, although not in the first flight as regards actual performance, he was one of the *very* few who could appreciate what can safely be attempted and what should be left alone. He was modesty itself, as a mountaineer, a soldier, or a friend. Lawrie's friendship was not lightly given, but once given was eternal. Loyalty and sincerity may indeed be described as the keynotes of his character. He leaves an ever blank space in the memories of all who knew him.

Lawrie married in 1908 Mary, daughter of the late Mr. Joseph Monteith of Carstairs. He leaves one young son.

To Lawrie's widow, to his mother, and to all his family, the Alpine Club offers its deepest sorrow and sympathy.

E. L. S.

NEW EXPEDITIONS.

Mont Blanc Group.

COL DES NANTILLONS¹ (3292 m. = 10,798 ft.). July 26, 1921.
MM. Tom de Lépiney and Jean Savard, G. H. M. of the *C.A.F.*

The party left Chamonix at 0.15, ascended the glacier d'Envers de Blaitière on its extreme right (ascending) along the rocks, thus reaching its highest point at the foot of the great couloir descending from the Col—i.e. the lower Col; then climbed a narrow, vertical chimney on the left of the couloir in a straight line until the broad platform is reached, whence the Knubel crack starts. This is either climbed or, preferably, traverse 20 m. to the right, and climb a great slab, turning on the right a rocky spur which dominates it. Then approach obliquely the couloir over easy slabs and vires, and finally climb it for the last 100 m., turning on the left the great final block. The sketch will make the matter clear. It remains, of course, *to climb it!* [Précis of full account in *La Revue Alpine*, xxii. 107–112.]

¹ Cf. 'Col des Nantillons,' by E. A. Broome, *A.J.* xxii. 353 seq.; and Mr. Young's note with route-marked sketch, *A.J.* xxv. 180.