

I had often heard of the danger of starting on a high tour in the early summer when the *Föhn* is blowing over the mountains, for although bringing warmth and beautiful skies, it is very often followed by violent storms and sudden falls of temperature to below freezing. As the climber,² deceived by the fine, warm weather, generally begins his tour lightly clad, he finds himself suddenly cut off by a storm and forced to spend one or more nights on the mountain-side. Fortunately, such adventures do not always have fatal consequences in the Bavarian Alps, chiefly owing to the vigilance of the *Bergwacht* and the excellently organized corps of guides now available at Berchtesgaden and elsewhere.

C. L. ROBERT.

IN MEMORIAM.

OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

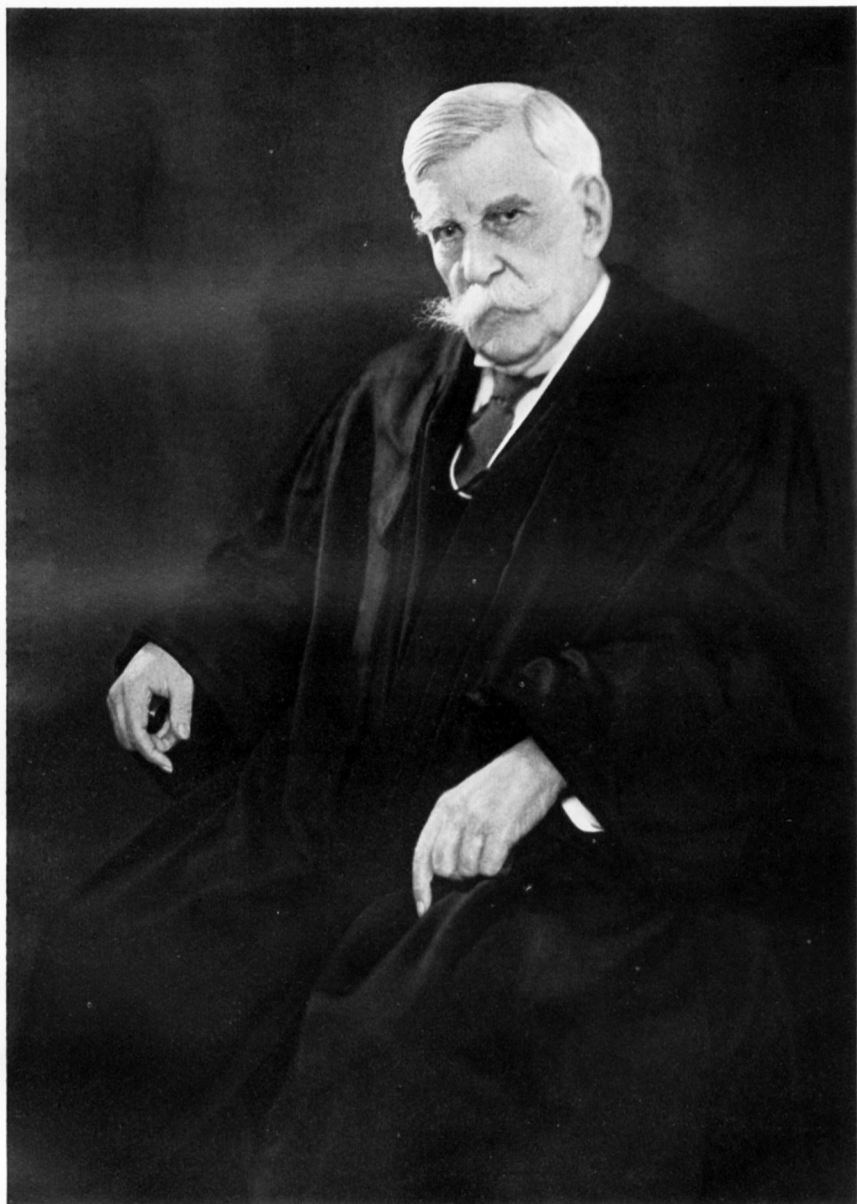
(1841-1935.)

WITH the passing of Oliver Wendell Holmes on March 6, 1935, the Alpine Club loses one of its oldest and most distinguished members. His climbing days were over long ago, but his interest in mountaineering never ceased. At the time of his death he was within two days of his ninety-fourth birthday.

Born in Boston, March 8, 1841, Holmes inherited from his brilliant father, author of *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*, and his mother, daughter of a Chief Justice of the highest court of Massachusetts, qualities of cheerfulness, vivacity and sympathetic humour. Following a common school education, he was about to graduate from Harvard when the Civil War broke out. At Balls Bluff, near Washington, he was shot through the chest. On the field of Antietam a bullet lodged in his neck, while in the charge on Marye's Hill, at Fredericksburg, he was wounded in the foot. He served as first lieutenant in the 20th Mass. Volunteer Cavalry, earned a captaincy and was discharged with the brevet of colonel. He was twenty-three when the war ended and he returned to Harvard. His original class was 1861; he took the degree of LL.B. in 1866 at the Law School.

From December 1881 he served continuously as a judge, and had been Justice of the Massachusetts Judicial Court for seventeen years and Chief Justice for three years when he was elevated to the highest court by President Theodore Roosevelt (Hon. A.C.) in 1902. He retired in 1932, after twenty-nine years as Associate Justice in the U.S. Supreme Court, where by almost universal accord he was known as the 'Great Liberal.'

² In the Eastern Alps.—*Editor.*



OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.
(1841-1935.)

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He brought to that renowned bench a mentality sparkling with wit and imbued with lofty sentiments. Justice Holmes supported the rights of man as paramount to property rights, and not only championed the welfare of the people but fought to protect State rights against Federal encroachment. Known widely as a dissenter, he exerted a powerful influence upon his colleagues, his opinions being classic, gems of diction and the essence of brevity.

Thrice wounded in the Civil War, his health was unimpaired until 1922 when, after celebrating his eighty-first birthday, he submitted to two major operations, his lease of life being thereby renewed.

His climbing record was not a great one, but he was one of the last links with the Golden Age of mountaineering in the Alps, for his ascents were made in 1866 with Leslie Stephen. They include Balmhorn, Mönchjoch and Mönch, Tschingel Pass and Col du Géant. Elected to the Alpine Club in 1866, he was junior by a month or two to our senior member, Mr. A. O. Prickard.

J. M. T.

ERIC GREENWOOD.

(1864–1935.)

BROUGHT up among the West Yorkshire moors at Oxenhope in the 'Brontë' country, where his ancestors had lived and carried on the worsted trade for nearly two centuries, Eric Greenwood early felt the call of the mountains. His home was within easy reach of the hills of Craven and most of his Saturdays were spent among them and his longer holidays among those of the Lake District. His first visit to the Alps was in 1889, and during the next four seasons he was at Zermatt, Grindelwald and Chamonix, where with J. J. Brigg, W. A. Brigg and guides he climbed a number of the bigger peaks, including the Dom, Weisshorn, Wetterhorn, Schreckhorn, Eiger and Matterhorn.

From 1894 onwards he became a mountain wanderer, mainly without guides. Of these tours his companions have a store of happy memories. Greenwood allowed himself a bare three weeks holiday—out and home—so that reckoning for bad weather, occasional illness, etc., he made good use of the time, as the following brief record shows:

1894. Triftjoch, Adler Pass, Feejoch, Col de Valpelline, Mt. Blanc from the Cabane du Dôme (or ? Aiguilles Grises) to the Bosses with Daniel Maquignaz (turned back by threatening weather) and descending to Chamonix.

1895. Rossbodenjoch, Mischabeljoch, Schwarzberg-Weisstor, Colle delle Loccie, Col de Valdobbia, Col d'Olen, Lysjoch, Mte. Rosa by the rocks, Col d'Hérens, Col de Bertol.

1897. Orsières to Zermatt by the High Level Route: Furggenjoch, Breuil, Courmayeur, Mt. Blanc by the Dôme (or Aiguilles Grises) route to Chamonix.

1898. Saas to Macugnaga by Monte Moro : Turlo Pass, Cols de Valdobbia and Ranzola, Aosta-Cogne-Dégioz, Col du Géant, Monteners, Forclaz, Champex.

1900. Gross Venediger to Dolomites (with guides) : Sorapis, Croda da Lago, Marmolata.

1902. Chamonix : Mt. Blanc to the Vallot Hut (high wind), Monteners, Fenêtre de Saleinaz, Mt. Velan, Gd. Combin, Binn-Hohsand Pass, New Weisstor, Zermatt.

1903. From Modane by the Waldensian Valleys to Crissolo, crossed Mte. Viso by the N.E. ridge, Col du Lautaret, Maljasset, Col du Sélé, La Bélarde (see 'A.J.' 22, 290).

1904. Attempted Piz Bernina : Chiesa, Disgrazia, Ortler, Cevedale, Adamello, Val di Genova.

1905. Col du Géant, Cogne-Dégioz, Gd. Paradis.

1906. Greenwood with Ling and Raeburn traversed the Finsteraarhorn by the S.E. ridge and the Agazzijoch to Schwarzegg Hut (20 hrs.), Schreckhorn by the *Anderson Grat* and the first descent of the S.W. ridge (17 hrs.).

1907. Norway : Turtegrö in very bad weather, Dyrhaugstnid, crossed the Bioumsbrae.

1908. Traversed Zinal-Rothhorn, Rimpfischhorn, Col du Gd. Cornier, Ferpècle-Col des Bouquetins. Attempted Dent d'Hérens (bad weather) : Valpelline, Cogne, Herbetet, Dégioz, Col du Géant. Attempted Mt. Blanc (turned back by bad weather for the seventh time), Monteners.

1909. Dent Parrachée, Grande Casse, Val d'Isère, Tsanteleina, Mont Pourri, Little St. Bernard, Courmayeur, Col du Géant.

1910. Norway : Turtegrö, Skaggasstöltind, Galdhoppigen, crossed the Jotunheim.

1912. Argentièrre and Arolla (bad weather).

1913. Oetzthal, Vent, Similaun, Meran, Sterzing, Pfitschthal, Schwarzenstein.

1914. Maritimes : Certosa di Pesio, Col Piano, S. Dalmazzo, St. Grat, Madonna della Fenestra, Cima di Gelas, Ciriègia, Termini di Valdieri, Argentera, Vinado (see 'A.J.' 29, 300).

During the earlier years Greenwood carried a wooden half-plate camera with plates, and his rucksack held very little other luggage. His companions welcomed the handicap. 'He was,' says one of them, 'very safe and reliable and a delightful companion on a mountain and elsewhere.' He was always really happiest above the 10,000 ft. line.

He constantly walked and climbed in the Lake Hills and was several times in Scotland : Ben Nevis by the snow gully, Arran, Ross-shire and Glencoe (Buchaille Etive ridge), and twice he spent Easter skiing at Feldberg in the Black Forest.

He was elected to the Club in 1891 and served on the Committee in 1909.

J. J. B.

HENRY BALDWIN DE VILLIERS SCHWAB.

(1887-1935.)

It is hard to realize that Henry Schwab, my companion of three happy summers in the Canadian Rockies and good friend ever since, has gone. We first met in 1921, I having previously heard of him as a mountain climber from his brother, whom I had known during the war. The late Allen Carpe was also present on that occasion, and it was probably due to him that the three of us went out together in 1922 to attempt Mt. Clemenceau. A kick from a horse on the way in forced Schwab to return to Jasper; Carpe and I did not climb Clemenceau, but Schwab and I with Dana Durand and others returned and were successful in 1923. In 1924 we went by trail with a party including the late Sir James Outram from Lake Louise to the Canadian Alpine Club camp at Mt. Robson. On the way, with Thomas D. Cabot, we failed by a few hundred feet to climb Mt. Columbia because of treacherous snow conditions. That was his last summer in the mountains, for reasons beyond his control. Earlier he had climbed from the age of fourteen during ten different seasons in Europe. Beginning with minor ascents in Tyrol in 1901, he turned to Switzerland in 1903 and every year from 1906 through 1912 climbed in the Alps in either the Oberland, Zermatt or Chamonix, and occasionally other districts; 1920, during which he made over twenty climbs, was his last and best year in the Alps.

He was a good all-around mountaineer. He particularly enjoyed the detailed consideration and the planning involved in undertaking a new climb. Our Clemenceau trips involved methods new to him. He enjoyed all this particularly, but never lost sight of the benefits of his previous experience in the Alps. He was a sound climber who had absorbed much that his guides had to teach him during the Alpine seasons. He was always insistent that a thing be done properly as he understood it. He had little patience with slipshod methods, but much when it was a question of doing a thing right even when this involved considerable extra effort. He was a safe man in the mountains.

Although he rarely alluded to it, one is sure that his inability to go to the mountains in recent years was a great disappointment to him. He did, however, maintain a very live interest in the accomplishments of others in the mountains, and from 1926 until a short time before his death was always in some official capacity connected with the management of the American Alpine Club to which he was devoted—Secretary 1926-1929, Councillor 1929-1932, President 1932-1935. During his presidency the present suitable and conveniently located quarters were occupied by the Club.

Henry Schwab was born at New York on June 16, 1887, his parents being Hermann C. and Mary Baldwin Schwab. After preparing at St. Mark's School he entered Harvard with the class of 1909 but



H. B. DE VILLIERS-SCHWAB.
(1887-1935.)

graduated a year ahead of his class in June 1908. The next two years were spent in business in Germany whence he returned to enter the wool department of Oelrichs & Co. in New York. There he rose to partnership in 1917 in charge of the firm's wool business. Before this he had visited New Zealand, Australia, South America and South Africa on business. In 1912 he married Kathrina H. de Villiers of Capetown at Pittsburgh. She and three children, two sons and a daughter, survive him.

In 1916 he attended the Plattsburg Training Camp, and later during the war entered the New York Guard as a private, being mustered out as Captain in the 9th C.D.C.

His premature death on March 15 following an actual illness of six weeks, from causes which had set in earlier, is a shock to his friends and a great loss to the Club, which he loved so well. He possessed an unusually even and cheerful temperament. Despite business worries during the last ten years of his life, he always maintained a smiling and happy exterior. In the mountains as at home his attractive personality caused him to stand out, and invited friendship among those with whom he came in contact. Mountain memories and a happy family life were a great source of satisfaction to him during his last years.

H. S. H., JR.

WILLIAM MEATH BAKER.

(1857-1935.)

THE subject of this obituary, although never a member of the Alpine Club, deserves more than a passing notice in the JOURNAL. Educated at Eton (Marriott's and Dalton's Houses) and Trinity College, Cambridge, W. M. Baker commenced climbing about 1876, and accomplished many unusual expeditions, in the Cottians and Maritimes, I believe, between that date and 1880. His companions during this period included his cousin, W. E. Gabbett, and William Penhall. His guides after 1880 were invariably Alois Pollinger, *père*, and generally J. M. Lochmatter, both of St. Niklaus. After the latter's death Rudolf Lochmatter and Heinrich Pollinger usually accompanied him, as second guides. The year 1882 proved for Baker and his companions an eventful and tragic period. First came the accident to Professor Francis Maitland Balfour, a personal friend of Baker's, on the Aiguille Blanche de Péteret. Gabbett and Baker were at Courmayeur at the time and, together with Pollinger and Lochmatter, took part in the search for the bodies. Baker always spoke highly of Johann Petrus of Stalden, Balfour's guide, with whom he had made several expeditions, while both he and Gabbett remained convinced that the ill-fated party had actually made the first ascent of the Aiguille Blanche and had fallen in the descent. This opinion was not shared by the Courmayeur guides.

This disaster was followed by the death of Penhall and Andreas Maurer on the Wetterhorn, the news of which event reached Baker's



ERIC GREENWOOD.
1864-1935.



Photo, Elliott & Fry.]

W. M. BAKER (ca. 1904).
1857-1935.

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party on their arrival at Zermatt about August 5. A few days later Gabbett and Baker, accompanied by Pollinger and Lochmatter, set out for the Stockje, *en route* for the Dent Blanche. On the way to the hut Baker was taken ill and returned to Zermatt with Pollinger; in place of the latter, Lochmatter's eldest son, Alexander, a youth of 19, who was accompanying the party to the hut as porter, joined his father and Gabbett on their last ascent, August 12. The story of the three tragedies is related at length in 'A.J.' 11, 90-100.

As a result of these accidents and also of his subsequent marriage, Baker gave up climbing for a considerable period. He devoted his leisure to hunting in which sport, being a light weight as well as a finished horseman, he had always taken the greatest interest. In 1896, as the consequence of a hunting strain, he returned again to the Alps, Alois Pollinger, with whom he had remained in close friendship, once more joining him as guide. I first met Baker at the Monte Rosa during that very bad summer, and was with him and his party, consisting of Alois Pollinger and his son Josef, or one or other of Josef or Rudolf Lochmatter, for part of the seasons of 1897-8, 1902-4, 1906-9. In 1910 came the sudden death of Alois Pollinger,¹ and with that event, which he felt very deeply, the end of Baker's mountaineering career.

Bill Baker was unquestionably one of the best rock-climbers of his comparatively early date. Very small, but with exceptionally long arms and reach, he was able to reach distant holds in a remarkable manner. On snow or ice he never attained anything approaching the same degree of skill. It was an invariable rule between us on the comparatively few guideless climbs we achieved together, that he should lead on rocks while I did the same on snow. Judging by his notes, most of our climbs alone together—Ortler and Bernina groups—appear to have been snowy! Baker had great powers of endurance: a slow starter, he was able as the day progressed to attain a more than requisite speed, up or down hill.

Among his climbing friends were Coolidge—an unbroken friendship²—Davidson, George Morse, Broome, Bartleet, Harold Topham, Conway, Meade, Lawrie and Edwin Oppenheim, but first and last stood always the picturesque and lovable figure of that great mountaineer, Alois Pollinger, senior. Baker, in 1900, was incidentally the first to train into the excellent guide he has since become, the then scamp-like, fourteen-year old Heinrich, Pollinger's third son. Alexander Burgener was also another great personal friend.

Bill Baker, to sum up, was a good mountaineer, a firm friend and the best of unselfish companions, whose sense of humour never failed, while as a topographer he was in the very first rank, assisting in the preparation of nearly all of the 'Conway and Coolidge' *Climbers' Guides*, notably *Alpes Valaisannes*.

I can find no record of Baker's climbs prior to 1880 and before joining forces with Alois Pollinger.

¹ *A.J.* 25, 241-3.

² *Ibid.* 45, 172.

1880. Dom from Kien Glacier, Triftjoch, Zinal-Rothhorn traverse, etc.

1881. Pointe des Arcas, Pelvoux, Le Râteau first by S.E. face, Col de la Coste rouge, Col des Ecrins, very bad weather.

1882. Grande Ruine, Col de la Lauze, Les Rouies, Le Fifre, first from S.W., Les Bans, Aiguille du Midi, Col de Talèfre, Mont Dolent, Aiguille du Grépond (*sic*, ? Petits Charmoz), etc.

1896. Ausser Barrhorn, etc., Grands Charmoz, etc.

1897. Pic Coolidge, Les Ecrins traverse, Grandes Jorasses, Mont Blanc traverse Courmayeur (Rocher du Mont Blanc)—Chamonix, Aig. de Blaitière, Tour Noir, Col d'Argentière, Breithorn from N., etc.

1898. La Meije traverse, Pointe du Vallon des Étages traverse, Laquinhorn, Rossbodenhorn, Portjengrat, Ober Gabelhorn traverse, Lyskamm, Mönch, Wetterhorn, Gr. Schreckhorn, Eiger, Nadelhorn—Ulrichshorn—Balfrinhorn, etc.

1899. Nesthorn, Aletschhorn traverse, Hinter Fiescherhorn, Signalkuppe, etc., Grand Cornier (Mountet-Vissoye), Dent Blanche, Taeschhorn (S.E. arête—Kien Glacier), Brunnegghorn traverse, etc.

1900. Col du Lion,³ Dent d'Hérens *via* Tiefenmattenjoch, Bietschhorn traverse N.-W., Gr. Fiescherhorn, Hohberghorn, Momingrat.

1901. Aiguilles d'Argentière, Verte, Chardonnet—all traversed. Nadelgrat, Trifthorn, etc.

1902. Rimpfischhorn from Adler Pass, Biesjoch, Allalinhorn, Ober Gabelhorn by *Arbengrat*, Matterhorn Zermatt-Breuil, Dürrenhorn, Weisshorn E. and N. arêtes.

1903. Vertainspitze, Ortler traverse Hochjoch to Payerhütte, Piz Palü, Piz Bernina E. and S.E. arêtes (all guideless with E. L. S.).

1904. Aiguilles des Petits et Grands Charmoz, New Weisstor, Nordend, Zwillinge (Castor and Pollux), Strahlhorn traverse, Alphubel traverse, Jägerhorn, Lenzspitze.

1905. Dent du Requin, Aiguilles de Grépon, Grand Dru, Géant, Grand Combin (Valsorey-Fionnay), Mont Blanc de Seillon, Petite Dent de Veisivi, Aiguilles Rouges traverse.

1906. Tête du Lion *via* Col Tournanche, Gässispitze, Pizzi Scerscen-Bernina traverse, Suors, Piz Roseg, etc.

1907. Pigne d'Arolla, Dent Perroc E.-W., Mt. Collon N.-S., Aiguille de la Tsa *via* face, Dents des Bouquetins (?) traverse, Kl. Matterhorn, etc.

1908. Piz Bacone traverse N.-S. (guideless with E. L. S.), Cima del Largo, Torrone Occidentale, Punta Rasica, Aiguilles du Plan, Petit Dru, Schallihorn.⁴

Baker had been suffering from failing health at his place, Hasfield Court, Gloucester, for some time before his lamented death in January 1935.

E. L. S.

³ July 16, 1900. *A.J.* 39, 45-6, footnote 1.

⁴ W. M. B.'s last peak, thus completing the ascent of *all* the 'Zermatt' Pennines.