

neck is to be held the main object of mountain-climbing, we may, without any disparagement of our author's personal prowess, venture to think that some of the rules adopted by European climbers might advantageously be introduced in the Far West. Had Mr. King's party generally consisted of four, instead of two members, he would have had far fewer hairbreadth escapes,—but he would also have written a far less exciting volume.

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## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

*January 30.—Mr. W. LONGMAN, President, in the Chair.*

The following gentlemen were balloted for, and elected Members of the Club—viz., Lieut.-Col. G. B. Malleson; Capt. R. F. Burton; Capt. Utterson-Kelso; Messrs. A. B. Hamilton, J. Stevenson Lyle, J. Smyth Osbourne, and R. Pendlebury.

The SECRETARY read a letter from Mr. Moggridge, giving some particulars of a fatal accident which occurred on December 4, 1870, near Mentone, to the Rev. R. Crosse, a Member of the Club.

After some remarks by Mr. Hawker, the PRESIDENT expressed the regret of the Club at the occurrence, and observed that it was satisfactory that the accident was in no way the result of carelessness on the part of Mr. Crosse.

Mr. PACKE submitted the accounts for the year 1871, which, after some discussion, were passed.

The PRESIDENT introduced to the meeting Mr. L. Coleman, the brother of Mr. E. T. Coleman, a Member, who has been for some time travelling in British Columbia. Mr. L. Coleman made some observations on the subject of the ascent of Mount Baker by his brother, and exhibited some drawings by him.

Mr. MOORE read a paper entitled 'Variations on the High Level Route,' which appeared *in extenso* in our February number.

Mr. TUCKETT, referring to a remark of Mr. Moore that almost every imaginable pass out of Zermatt had now been made, observed that there might be reason to hope that in consequence of the oscillations of temperature in the Alps certain passes now easy might in course of time become difficult, and quoted in support of this view a statement by Mons. Venetz, that, in the early part of the century, the Col d'Erin had been an ordinary pilgrim's route from Zermatt to Evolena.

Mr. MURRAY BROWNE, adverting to the recent very great diminution of glaciers in the Alps mentioned by Mr. Tuckett, stated that a similar diminution had taken place of late years in many of the Norwegian glaciers.

March 5.—Mr. W. LONGMAN, *President, in the Chair.*

The following gentlemen were balloted for, and elected Members of the Club—viz., Col. H. E. Longden, Messrs. Albert Bankes, E. A. Ford, H. Malan, and W. Simpson.

Revised statements of account for the year 1871 were submitted in substitution for those passed on January 30, and, after some discussion, were adopted.

Mr. STEPHEN proposed, and Mr. MARSHALL HALL seconded: 'That the Committee be requested to consider the propriety of inviting the Swiss, Austrian, German, and Italian Alpine Clubs to hold a meeting, in conjunction with this Club, in some part of the Alps, during the ensuing summer, and that they be empowered to communicate with those Clubs, and to take such steps as may be necessary in order to arrange such a meeting.'

Messrs. D. Freshfield, Wallroth, Moore, Hinchliff, F. Barlow, Sheppard, Macdonald, Whymper, and Longman spoke. It was generally considered that there were serious difficulties in the way of this Club undertaking to organise such a meeting. The distance of Switzerland, the various times of year at which Members take their holidays, and the various and widely separated districts they frequent, were urged as reasons why it would be impossible to secure beforehand such an attendance as would justify this Club in taking the lead in, and rendering itself responsible for, the arrangements of the proposed meeting. At the same time several Members expressed their sense of the advantages to be gained by rendering more intimate the relations already existing between the English and foreign Alpine Clubs, and the pleasure it would give them to have an opportunity of meeting the many distinguished men the latter number among their ranks. Mr. Stephen having replied, and a motion for the adjournment of the debate having been put and negatived, the motion referring the matter to the Committee was agreed to.

The following alterations in the Rules of the Club were proposed and agreed to by the requisite two-thirds majority in each case, viz.:—

Rule VI.: after the words 'A General Meeting of the Club shall also be annually held in,' to read 'January or February, for passing accounts and for general business.'

Rule X.: that the first part of the Rule stand as follows:—'The Members of the Club shall dine together once in every year, on a day to be fixed by the Committee. Except under special circumstances, the dinner shall take place in December. The cost of the dinner, inclusive of wine, shall not exceed one guinea a head. Every member shall be at liberty to introduce friends at the dinner, at his own expense.'

In the second part of the Rule, after the word 'friend,' to insert 'or friends.'

That the following words be added to the Rule:—'A dinner of the Club shall also take place in May or June of each year, provided that

not fewer than twenty members shall, on or before the 20th May, signify to the Committee, in writing, their intention of attending such dinner, if held.'

Rule XV. : to add the words 'or receive the Club publications.'

Rule XVII. : that the Rule stand as follows :—'Any member, elected prior to the 1st January, 1872, who may be absent from England during the whole period for which the annual subscription is payable, may be exempt from subscription during such absence, but, while so exempt, he shall not receive the Club publications.'

Some discussion took place with reference to the unsatisfactory state of the Library, and the possibility of making it more easily accessible to members; but, there being no motion before the meeting, the subject dropped.

Mr. FOSTER's paper on the 'Ascent of Mont Colon' was postponed.

*April 9.*—Mr. W. LONGMAN, *President, in the Chair.*

Mr. C. T. Dent was balloted for, and elected a Member of the Club.

The PRESIDENT called attention to a project which had been brought to his notice by Mr. Whymper, for the construction of a path up the Grand Tournalin, a mountain 11,000 feet high, in the Val Tournanche. It had not been thought proper to make a grant towards the expenses out of the Club funds, but he considered that the project was worthy of support from individual members.

Mr. WHYMPER pointed out the extremely favourable position of the Grand Tournalin for a panoramic view of the Monte Rosa chain, and the importance of the proposed path, not only to tourists, but for scientific purposes. In consequence of the poverty of the Val Tournanche, the plan could not be carried out without external aid. He himself was about to leave England, but the Secretary of the Club would receive any sums which gentlemen might be disposed to contribute, and transmit them to the proper quarter.

Mr. NICHOLS, on the part of Herr Petermann, presented to the Club a photograph by Lieut. Payer of a portion of the interior of Greenland, including the lately-discovered Petermann-Spitze.

Mr. WHYMPER gave some interesting details of the proceedings of the German Arctic Exploring Expedition, and the PRESIDENT made some observations on the reported remarkable effect on the vegetation of the perpetual daylight within the Arctic Circle.

Mr. G. E. FOSTER read the paper on the 'Ascent of Mount Colon,' which appears in our present number, at the conclusion of which

Mr. HAMILTON mentioned that a new inn would this season be opened at Arolla, and drew attention to the great variety of expeditions which can be made from that place.

A vote of thanks to Mr. FOSTER was carried unanimously.