

be made to climb as high up Mt. Everest as possible. The difficulties of thoroughly exploring and finding an easy route to the foot of such a giant as Mt. Everest will be great, for there must be several valleys coming down from the mountain in which probably will be long glaciers. It will take much time getting up to the head of these glaciers, and still longer to get from one valley into the next, as the ridges separating the valleys will almost certainly be far too high to admit of any camp being taken across them. Also probably the heads of the glaciers on the N. side of Mt. Everest will be at least 20,000 ft. This will be an advantage from the point of view of climbing Mt. Everest. If there are no steep glaciers and ice-falls between 20,000 ft. and 24,000 ft., the access to the upper snow-fields on the mountain will be not too difficult for the coolies. One must not forget Rubenson's experience on Kabru, when he took five days to cut up less than 2000 ft. of glacier. However, it is to be hoped that on the northern slopes of Mt. Everest the glaciers will be easier to climb. There is no doubt that the northern slopes of the Himalaya, on Pawhunri and Chomiomo, for instance, are far easier than the southern slopes, and the snow-line also is much higher.

General Bruce's paper on Mt. Everest in the *Geog. Journal*, January 1921, and Lt.-Col. Howard-Bury's 'Some Observations on the Approaches to Mount Everest,' in the *Geog. Journal*, February 1921, contain much valuable information.

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THE RANGES NORTH OF MT. EVEREST AS SEEN FROM NEAR  
THE KANG LA.

BY J. N. COLLIE.

ON February 5 I received a letter from Dr. Kellas, who is at Darjiling, in which he sent a tele-photograph (frontispiece), of much interest at the present time. Both Makalu and Everest are shown, but what is of exceptional importance is that the ranges to the N. of Everest have been photographed for the first time. It is taken from a peak 17,400 ft. N.W. of the Kang La.

After leaving the Kamet district he went to Darjiling, in Sikkim. At the end of November he started along the water-

shed between Sikkim and Nepal for the south-western spurs of Kanchenjunga, finally arriving at the Kang La. Again to quote :

‘ When we left Ghum in the end of November, we were during the day nearly continuously in mist, but on reaching the Nepal frontier ridge, we found that we were above the mists, and in nearly continuous sunshine during the day. This state of things continued during the month, and we reached the Kang La without fresh snow falling. At present I will merely send you two rough tele-photographs. I think you will agree that the rock peak and the snow peak dominating the further range are clearly in evidence, and explain Graham’s statement regarding his conversation with his guide on the top of Forked Peak.<sup>1</sup>

‘ Not only are Graham’s peaks shown, but there are at least two others unsurveyed above 24,000 ft., namely, the rock tooth to the N. of Makalu, and a splendid rock and snow peak N.W. of Graham’s snow peak, which is probably higher than any of these unsurveyed mountains. I will say more about these in my next letter.’

The above remarks of Dr. Kellas regarding Graham’s statement, made nearly forty years ago, seem to be well grounded. Graham in his paper (‘ A.J.’ vol. xii. p. 49), says :

‘ North-west, less than seventy miles, lay Mt. Everest, and I pointed it out to Boss, who had never seen it, as the highest mountain in the world. “ That cannot be,” he replied, “ those are higher ”—pointing to two peaks which towered far above on a second and more distant range and showed over the slope of Everest, at a rough guess some 80–100 miles further north. I was astonished, but we were all agreed that, in our judgment, the unknown peaks, one rock and one snow, were loftier. It has been suggested to me since that we mistook Mt. Everest, but this is impossible.’

That Graham was well acquainted with the form and appearance of Mt. Everest is evidenced by the fact that he has correctly identified Everest in a drawing by Col. Tanner (*cp.* ‘ A.J.’ vol. xii. p. 490).

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<sup>1</sup> The peak to the S. of Kabru that Graham most probably ascended.

Moreover, there is further evidence than Graham's of high peaks to the N. of Everest. Pundit No. 9 and Babu 'S.C.D,' who travelled through the country, say that it contains mountains of enormous height. There are also persistent native beliefs in the existence of rivals to Everest in the country N. of it.

It is also worthy of mention that Mr. Freshfield in his book, *Round Kangchenjunga*, p. 204, writes: 'The Kang La Peak is only a week's travel from Darjiling. Will not the Surveyor-General send up an officer who can climb and is competent to settle the question at issue?' The question at issue being the existence of the two mountains mentioned by Graham. That was twenty-one years ago. Dr. Kellas has been there and has obtained tele-photographs of very high peaks, just where Graham said they were. That they are higher than Everest is exceedingly doubtful, still the proof of their existence adds considerable interest to the expedition that next summer will be passing quite close to them.

One more word about Dr. Kellas's dash into the Himalaya, practically in December. He is to be heartily congratulated on the result, and admired for the pluck in undertaking a journey at such a time of year. One only wonders, for he says nothing about it, what were the temperatures he had to endure, at that season of the year, at altitudes sometimes higher than the summit of Mt. Blanc.

## HIMALAYAN HINTS FOR MOUNTAINEERS.

By C. F. MEADE.

[The following notes, though based merely on an experience of British Garhwal where I spent three seasons, may, I hope, be to some extent useful for climbers in other districts of the Himalaya.]

**PERSONNEL.**—In my last attempt on Kamet my party consisted of two Europeans, namely, my Alpine guide Pierre Blanc and myself. I am aware of the drawbacks of so small a European party, but when all goes well everything is much easier. In case of illness or accident it would be otherwise. Blanc is one of the few professionals ideally suitable for a Himalayan expedition, and he has been out three times, but I do not know whether he wants to go out again. If a guide be taken (and on Kamet a first-class step-cutter