

were handed down to me, I again sipped the gently stimulating cup which a niggard fortune offers all too seldom to the modest merit of the class called Amateurs.

After regaining our tracks and the Col we reached the glacier by a slight variation of our morning's route, dictated by the state of the snow, and eventually sat down to refresh ourselves by a stream, where the open-eyed innocence of countless gentians * would have charmed even such travellers as are ordinarily careless of mountain flowers.

While we were resting we heard shots; two chamois passed near us, and presently we discerned the hunter on a distant slope. Then we went on our way to Breuil—a delightful walk. Clusters of chalets, green meadows round the haybarns on the flanks of the great hills, brooks tumbling in waterfalls, the little lake of Lore, Val Tournanche itself, the new Church of Chenelle raised high on a sunlit shoulder above the glen which leads to the Grand Tournalin, villages the picture of peace—all these delighted, one after another, the wandering gaze; and the dull roar of the torrent floating up to us—a note of war—and the music of the cowbells—a note of peace—mingled together.

We found two or three big anemones (*Anemone sulphurea*) in flower, and perfect forests of stems crowned with ripe or rapidly ripening seed. *Scutellaria alpina*, *Gentiana ciliata*, and *Dryas octopetala* were in bloom in places, and close to Breuil *Linaria alpina* was more brilliant than I have ever seen it: the orange in it seemed almost aflame.

We reached the hotel at five minutes past six after one of the most enjoyable days I ever spent.

IN MEMORIAM.

WILLIAM MATHEWS.

OUR Club has lost in William Mathews, who died on September 5, one of its original members and a former President. He was born September 10, 1828, at Hagley, in Worcestershire, at the house of his father, who was agent to Lord Lyttelton. In 1842, after about six years in a preparatory school at Hall Green, near Birmingham, where he made more progress in drawing than in arithmetic, he went to King's College School, London. He early became interested in natural science, and at the age of eleven was eagerly studying chemistry, but an explosion—a not unfrequent experience for

* My Note-book says: 'Gentians splendid, twenty blooms on a tuft.'

beginners—in which he narrowly escaped serious injury, probably induced his elders to divert him into the safer paths of botany and geology. While at King's College he used to make short excursions in the Thames Valley to collect plants, and in his holidays investigated the botany of Worcestershire from his home, which was now situated between Kidderminster and Hagley. At the comparatively early age of sixteen he entered his father's office to begin his training as a land agent and surveyor. This, however, was interrupted in his twenty-first year, for his father, following the advice of the late Lord Lyttelton, decided to send his son to Cambridge, so Mathews began residence at St. John's College in the month of November, 1848. Four years in an office is not so good a preparation for university work as a training at school, but his industry and natural abilities enabled him to recover much lost ground, while his wide interests both in literature and in science gained him friends such as Dr. H. J. Roby, and the late Professors Hort and Cardale Babington. His place in the Mathematical Tripos of 1852 hardly did him justice, for he came out twentieth wrangler. Probably he was never a rapid worker, and he suffered from insomnia, as is not uncommon with anxious candidates, all through the examination. After taking his B.A. degree (from which he proceeded to M.A. in 1856), he returned once more to the office, where out-door duties often gave him opportunities of studying the botany and geology of the Midlands, while as an evening occupation he began work on French and German, both of which languages he ultimately read with ease and spoke well, besides having a fair knowledge of Italian. In 1853 he saw the Alps for the first time, and at once yielded to their fascination. Returning in 1854 he made a rather remarkable ascent of the Velan, then very seldom climbed, for the party was not able to leave St. Pierre till 9 A.M. They gained the summit at 3 P.M., and were so fortunate as to obtain a splendid view. In 1856 he explored with his brother, C. E. Mathews, the mountains at the head of the Val de Bagnes. They ascended in bad weather the Combin de Corbassière under the idea (due to a confusion in nomenclature) that it was the Grand Combin (locally known as the Graffeneire), besides making some other glacier excursions.* In 1857 he was one of the first party of Englishmen on the summit of the Finster Aarhorn,+ and afterwards reached, after much toil owing to soft snow, the northern peak of the Grand Combin. Two summers later he and his brother G. S. Mathews had some noted successes. They made the first passage of the Eiger Joch, in company with the Rev. Leslie Stephen, ‡ of the Col Durand, and of the Lys Joch §; afterwards paying a short visit to the Tarentaise, in the course of which they reduced an Alpine impostor,

* Described with those of 1857 in *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers* (First Series). Chapter IV.

† *Ibid.* Chapter XI. (J. F. Hardy).

‡ *Ibid.* (Second Series) Chapter VII.

§ *Ibid.* Chapter V.

the Mont Iséran, to its true level. Returning in 1860 to the Tarentaise, Mathews climbed the Sassièrè (which had not been ascended by any traveller) and the Grande Casse,* after which, in company with the present writer and Mr. J. C. Hawkshaw, he for the first time visited Dauphiné and the Cottian Alps. The exceptionally bad weather of that summer made this part of the journey a disappointment. An attack on the Pelvoux, after we had waited for two nights and a day under a huge boulder, failed owing to the incompetency of the local guides: the only result of that on the Viso was ascertaining on which side it should not be attacked.

But in 1861, in company with Mr. Jacomb, he set foot on its summit after passing the night about 1,400 feet lower down.† They also ascended a peak of the Rutor‡ and made the first passage of the Felik Joch, climbing Castor *en route*.§ In 1862 he returned with the present writer to the Graians and Dauphiné. The Rutor, Mont Pourri and the Grivola were ascended, and the first passage made of the Col de Monei; the chief incident in Dauphiné being the first attack on the Ecrins, which was defeated by the state of the snow about 800 feet below the summit. In 1863, with the same friend and his brother G. S. Mathews, more than one new expedition in the Graians and Dauphiné was foiled by bad weather, but they made the first ascent of the north peak of the Grandes Rousses.

His marriage in the autumn of that year to Miss Agnes Lawrence did not terminate his interest in the mountains, though henceforth he avoided arduous ascents, as he had already begun to suffer from breathlessness in going up hill. In 1864 he travelled in the Pyrenees, chiefly for botanical purposes, though he ascended the Maladetta with the late Charles Packe, and in 1866 returned with a family party to the Alps, crossing, however, a couple of glacier passes in the Pennines. In 1868 he made, with the present writer, an interesting journey, including some glacier excursions, through Eastern Switzerland and the Western Tyrol, and in 1872 with the same companion went over other parts of the latter country, ascending the Marmolata and the Gross Glockner. Happening to meet on his penultimate visit to the Alps in 1874, we crossed the Ried pass from St. Nicholas to Saas, and returned to Zermatt by the Alphubel. This, I believe, was his last glacier excursion. Those named above are, however, only a few of Mathews's expeditions over snow and ice, for with him the making of new ascents was subsidiary to obtaining a thorough knowledge of the geography, physiography, and botany of the Alps. In these, and in the doings of our Club, he did not cease to take interest even in the hours of pain and weakness. In topographical questions his accuracy as an observer and his retentive memory made him most helpful to the late John Ball in preparing the first edition of

* *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers* (Second Series), Chapter XI.

† *Ibid.* Chapter IX.

‡ Then written Ruitor.

§ *Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers* (Second Series), Chapter V.

the 'Alpine Guide'; and he formed a very good collection of Alpine plants, now in the Kew Herbarium.* At one time also he paid much attention to hypsometry, publishing papers on that subject in the 'Alpine Journal.'

For some years before his marriage Mathews had resided in Birmingham, where he had taken an increasing share in the educational work of the town. He assisted in the foundation of the Midland Institute, of which he was for some time Honorary Secretary, besides teaching the first mathematical class. In 1868 he was a Vice-President, and delivered the annual address, in the absence of the President. After being for some years a governor of King Edward's School he became bailiff in 1870, a position which, as changes were impending in the constitution of the school, entailed much labour. The education question was then a burning one in the Midland metropolis, and Mathews as a Churchman and a Conservative, though anything but an extreme party man, took an active part in the struggle over the reconstitution of the Grammar School and the formation of the School Board. He also served for some years on the Governing Body of the recently founded Mason's College, the germ of the new Midland University. At the meeting of the British Association in Birmingham in 1865 he was one of the honorary secretaries, assisting in the preparation of the 'Handbook,' and was always a ready helper in any educational work.

These duties, his scientific studies, and the burden of professional work, often heavy, had been for some time telling upon his constitution, till in 1873 he became seriously ill, and his health remained unsatisfactory up to the autumn of 1876, when he was ordered to pass the winter abroad. Seven months were spent in Algeria, and his enforced leisure bore fruit in a paper on its flora, with notes on the hypothesis of the submergence of the Sahara. The change, unfortunately, did not do so much good as was expected, and in 1878 he was again so seriously unwell that retirement from business seemed inevitable. But he was saved from this by wise medical advice and devoted home care, and though he had to spare himself as much as possible he was able to continue professional work, and even his scientific studies till 1893, when he felt himself justified in laying down the burden of the former. Though this brought some improvement in health, it was not enough to enable him to become engrossed in the latter, and the enforced inaction, especially when all the surroundings reminded him of the past, often caused great depression of spirits. In 1899 he quitted Edgbaston for Tunbridge Wells, but the change brought little relief, and an internal malady, which now developed itself, caused much and increasing pain during the remainder of his life. This ended on September 5, and he was laid, on the anniversary of his birth, in the family burial place at Hagley.

As already stated, Mathews was an original member—indeed, one

* The rest of his botanical collection was given to Worcester, and his geological specimens to the Mason's College, Birmingham.

of the actual founders—of the Alpine Club,* of which he was President from 1868 to 1870. Also he was the first to discern Elijah Walton's power in depicting the Alps, and had a large collection of his water-colour drawings. He received in 1867 the Cross of the Order of St. Maurice and St. Lazare from the King of Italy, and when the British Association met in Birmingham in 1886 he was a Vice-President of the Section of Geology and that of Geography. He was a Fellow of the Geological Society of London, of the Royal Geographical Society, a member of the Surveyors' Institute, and of the Land Surveyors' Club, of which, on his retirement in 1893, he was elected an honorary member.

A conscientious discharge of every duty was the characteristic of William Mathews's life. 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might,' seemed to be his motto. He was as exact in small things as in great. Thus even such trifles as writing a letter to a friend, or jotting down notes of an excursion, were done as carefully as if they had been legal documents. His actions in collecting a specimen were characteristic of the man. Many of us would, as we walked, take out paper, wrap up the plant or rock, and put it away, only pausing for an instant to scribble a memorandum. Not so Mathews; he halted, did these things systematically, and then went on. In all his movements, even in eating and drinking, there was a certain deliberateness. Everything was executed with precision; he had a horror of inexactness. It was the same in business, he never slurred over details. His anxiety was to understand each question thoroughly, so that he might, as the mediator between landlord and tenant, bring each to do justice to the other. He had his reward in the respect and trust of both alike. Thus his services were often sought as arbitrator or umpire in disputed cases. But this method of work, combined with a constitutional difficulty in throwing off cares even for a moment, of being content with a passing pleasure, and of letting his mind lie fallow, finally told severely on him, and impaired his energies during the last twenty years of his life. He was obliged to live more or less as an invalid, long walks and strain of any kind being prohibited. It is possible that his earlier Alpine journeys had been productive of mischief, for mountaineering in those days entailed more hardships than it generally does now. In the unfrequented valleys food and sleeping quarters were alike bad, the shelter of a boulder being often preferable to that of a roof; thus the climbs were not seldom more exhausting than restful, and in Mathews's case the heart probably received a strain from which it never recovered. Tall and strongly built, he promised in middle life to reach a healthy old age, but as it sometimes happens with such men, one spot was

* The idea, in fact, of the formation of the Club was originated by him in a letter written to the Rev. F. J. A. Hort dated February 1, 1857. See 'The Formation of the Alpine Club,' by W. Longman, in this Journal, vol. viii. Appendix, p. 84. The letter is printed in *Life and Letters of Fenton John Antony Hort*, vol. i. p. 370 (1896), and in *Annals of Mont Blanc*, by C. E. Mathews, pp. 198, 199.

weak, and this was, unfortunately, found out by his favourite recreation.

Professional and other duties did not allow him much time for writing, and when the leisure came, then his health forbade prolonged mental labour. But besides the articles already mentioned, he contributed one section to the first series of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers,' and three to the second; two papers to the 'Alpine Journal' on 'Climbs in the French Alps,' four on hypsometric subjects, one on the movement of glaciers, with some other notes; also two papers communicated to the Birmingham Philosophical Society, and two in regard to the influence of taxation on real property to the 'Transactions' of the Surveyors' Institute. He published some valuable papers on the 'Flora of Worcestershire' in the 'Midland Naturalist,' and one in pamphlet form on the 'Flora of the Clent and Lickey Hills'; he was author of the chapter on the geology of the neighbourhood of Birmingham in the 'Handbook' prepared for the visit of the British Association in 1865, and wrote part of that on botany in the 'Handbook' besides reading papers at the meeting in 1886.

But I must conclude this brief memorial of my friend. William Mathews was a representative of the older, rather than the newer, school, both in Alpine climbing and in science. To him the beauties and the wonders of mountain regions were their chief attractions, and though he could feel the enjoyment of overcoming difficulties, he had little love for acrobatic performances. So, too, in science, though his knowledge was always precise and accurate, especially in botany, he was a naturalist, rather than a specialist. He was also unusually well read in general literature, where his very retentive memory stood him in good stead. These wide sympathies, and this extensive range of knowledge, made him a most interesting companion in travel. But he possessed yet greater attractions. With a remarkably even temper, without a trace of selfishness or self-seeking, naturally one of the most courteous and considerate of men, yet inflexible in acting up to his own high standards of righteousness and honour, he was emphatically worthy to bear 'the grand old name of gentleman.' To the younger members of the Club long ill-health has made William Mathews hardly more than a name; * but for those elders, now but few, who knew him in his prime, his departure makes a gap which cannot be filled.

T. G. BONNEY.

CHARLES HALFORD HAWKINS.

By the death of the Rev. C. H. Hawkins the Club has lost one of its members of the older school. He was born in 1838, second son of Dr. Francis Hawkins, Physician in Ordinary to the Queen's Household, nephew of Dr. Hawkins, the well-known Provost of Oriel, and brother of Mr. F. Vaughan Hawkins, whose gallant

* His last appearance at a Club dinner was in December 1896.

attempt on the Matterhorn from the south side, in 1860, with Professor Tyndall and the guides Bennen and Carrel* is well known to all readers of 'Vacation Tourists and Notes of Travel.'

He was educated at Harrow and St. John's College, Cambridge, and, after taking his degree, accepted a mastership at Winchester College, where he lived and worked for close on forty years—up to the very beginning of his last illness. This is, perhaps, hardly the occasion for speaking of the serious work of his life, but in lighter moments he was ever 'a fellow of infinite jest, and most excellent fancy,' and by his quaint humours and many-sided interests won for himself the affectionate regard of all who knew him.

Probably he was not well known to many members of the Club, as he never took a prominent part in its management, and, owing to other calls and occupations, had not been able to travel much in the Alps of later years. His climbing was mostly done in the early 'seventies, and he was elected a member of the Club in 1872. As a mountaineer he was, like many others of the older school, not so much a daring gymnast as an enthusiastic lover of the mountains. His object was, not to establish a record up some known peak or force a passage up some hitherto impregnable crag, but to ascend some of the most typical mountains by the most picturesque routes, and enjoy to the full what I may, perhaps, call all the accidents of climbing—the bivouac on the mountain side, the early dawn on the upper snowfields, the mysteries that still lingered over 'those wrinkled hills.' It was, I should say, rather the joy of these experiences, and the love of mountain scenery, that made him climb, than the joy of the act of climbing in itself.

But, whether on the mountain side, or on bye-days below, he was ever a most pleasant companion, full of quips and cranks, and an unfailing source of amusement to those with him. As I write there come back to me, together with the recollections of many climbs in the higher Alps, bright memories of merry days and genial nights in his company at Zermatt and at Pen-y-gwryd under the kindly hospitality of Madame Seiler and Mrs. Owen—experiences which cannot be repeated—memories without which my life, and that of others, would be the poorer.

F. M.

THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY.

Recent Guide Books.

Black's Guide to Switzerland, 1901; see Coolidge, W. A. B.

Brusoni, E. Locarno, seine Umgebung und seine Thäler. 8vo, pp. viii, 145; maps, ill. Bellinzona, Colombi, 1899

This is a portion of the 'Guide to the Central Alps,' edited by Prof. Brusoni.

* John Joseph Bennen, of Laax, who was killed in an avalanche on the Haut-de-Cry on February 28, 1864 (*Alpine Journal*, vol. i. p. 288). An appreciation of him as a guide will be found in *Vacation Tourists* for 1860, p. 290. Jean Antoine Carrel, the story of whose tragic death on the Italian side of the Matterhorn is eloquently told by Mr. Whympner in *Alpine Journal*, vol. xv. p. 284.