

From a photograph by Capt. W de W Abney, C.B., R.E., F.R.S.

Swan Electric Engraving Co

MELCHIOR ANDEREGG.

1827 - 1914.

IN MEMORIAM.

MELCHIOR ANDEREGG.

ON December 8, 1914, at the age of eighty-seven years and nine months, Melchior Anderegg passed away. He died at Meiringen, in the house to which he came down some years ago from Zaun, to receive from loving hands the attendance and care due to his age and some natural infirmities. His spirit was bright and energetic to the end; he was full of the interests of his many descendants, and of the community of Meiringen. Death, following a heart-attack, came very peacefully, as a sleep, and he started, ripe and willing, for 'the last ascent,' of which he had written, not many months ago, to an old comrade in England.

The close of a life so prolonged, so full throughout of all that was most alive, cannot but move many thoughts: of respectful sympathy with the family whose head has been removed, of pride and gratitude for the inspiring example which remains. To us his career is associated with memories which are, and always will be, among our most cherished. His retirement from regular work as a guide dates from the end of 1893, in which year the toast of his health was given at the Winter Dinner in special recognition of his intimacy with members of the Club during at least thirty-eight years.* It was 'proposed by Mr. Leslie Stephen, and responded to by Mr. Horace Walker, Sir Reginald Cust, Mr. F. C. Grove, and Mr. C. E. Mathews.' If to these names we add those of Mr. Hinchliff, of the other members of the Walker family, and of Mr. F. Morshead, as of persons whose association was most notable and continuous, we become aware that, with one honoured exception, all have left us. Happily the circle of those who knew and valued him is by no means so restricted. Many remain who have enjoyed his company in climbs of more or less frequency; others remember his bright presence, and his many-counselling and disinterested wisdom; and a younger generation cannot be unaware of its debt to him as a trainer of those who were to be his successors, and a founder, though by no means the sole founder, of a sound and noble tradition in guide-craft. Already in 1888, when in England on a visit to Mr. C. E. Mathews, he had been introduced at a meeting of the Alpine Club by the President (C. T. Dent) and 'most enthusiastically' welcomed.†

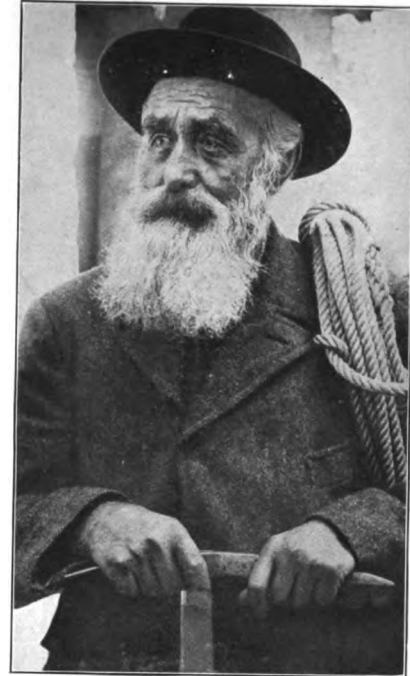
A sketch of Melchior Anderegg's life and performance has been written out of the full knowledge gathered through many years, and with much skill in marshalling the personal facts, by Mr. C. E. Mathews in 'The Pioneers of the Alps,' to which, as well as to the

* *A.J.* xvii. 88.

† *Ibid.* xiii. 572.



1859.



1908.

MELCHIOR ANDEREGG.

same writer's affectionate tribute in the Badminton volume, any future biographer must be largely indebted.

He was born at Zaun, a hamlet above the left bank of the Aar, below Meiringen, in 1827. He was thus the junior by one year of Christian Almer, and also of Christian Lauener, and the same age as his cousin Jakob. Michel Croz (born in 1830) and François Devouassoud (1831) were slightly younger men; Franz Andermatten was his senior by four years. His earliest occupation was with cattle; he became a noted chamois hunter,* and was the champion wrestler of his valley; he also had a fine, melodious voice, both in speaking and singing. At eighteen he taught himself the art of wood-carving, which he practised in great perfection later on. The Alpine Club possesses, as do several of its members, specimens of his work, some of which were first exhibited in London in 1873 by the late H. Schütz-Wilson.† For some years he assisted his cousin Johann Frutiger in the management of the Inn on the Grimsel. It was here that he was discovered by Mr. Hinchliff in August 1855; and together they made a passage of the Strahlegg, which is described with much lively detail in 'Summer Months among the Alps.' The acquaintance was renewed at the Schwarenbach, where Melchior was installed as a green-aproned vendor of wood-carving. He had already climbed the Altels with two Englishmen, and was in possession of a 'book of certificates,' and an ascent of this peak followed. It used to be said that it was in consequence of some early chest delicacy that he passed these years in outlying mountain places; if this were so, the treatment was singularly successful. However this may be, he joined other members of his family in keeping the Schwarenbach Hotel, and there he was found in 1856 by Mr. (Dr.) F. J. A. Hort and Mr. (Bishop) J. B. Lightfoot, who made, advised and led by him, a new passage to the Rhone Valley at Sierre (the Lämmern Joch). It is very pleasant, though by no means surprising, to find in these early mentions of a young guide, wholly unknown to fame, all the now well-known points—caution, alertness, disinterested care for his employer, observation of the phenomena of rock and ice, and withal humour, a sense of natural beauty, and an all-pervading vivacity. Mr. Hinchliff gives a cheerful account of the descent of a steep snow-slope 'Melchior from time to time giving vent to his favourite cry of "Good, good!"' ‡ 'With great regret,' he concludes, § 'I parted with Melchior, considering him a most excellent and trustworthy fellow, one of those true and stout hearts with whom it is always a pleasure to be associated.' || Dr. Hort's letters leave the same impression. He speaks with warm gratitude of guidance in a climb of the Riffelhorn, which, at the time of writing (1865),

* See *A.J.* ii. 162.

‡ P. 77.

|| *Life and Letters of F. J. A. Hort*, vol. i. p. 307 &c.

† *Ibid.* vi. 315.

§ P. 80.

had acquired sad associations, and which Melchior always insisted on being approached with serious respect.

Hinchliff died in 1882, and in a notice of him Mr. (Sir Leslie) Stephen wrote :—

‘Of all the expeditions I have made, I can remember none more pleasant than one of ten days in the Oberland with him and Melchior Anderegg. He had introduced me at starting to that old and excellent friend, who still, I doubt not, remembers Hinchliff as one of his earliest and best patrons.’ *

This introduction, made in 1858, led to a friendship which, as Mr. Maitland assures us, never cooled. ‘Whenever, after 1876, Stephen goes to the Alps, the two men whom he hopes to meet are M. Loppé, the painter, and Melchior Anderegg, the guide. Already in 1861 Anderegg visited Stephen in London. A remark of his about the superiority of a view of London chimney-pots over the view from Mont Blanc is the starting-point of a delightful pair of essays in the history of aesthetic.’ † In 1888 Melchior was again in London, and was, as we have seen, introduced to the Alpine Club; he was also introduced, by Stephen, to Westminster Abbey and to Madame Tussaud’s Gallery. ‘Friendship’ was a word which meant very much in Stephen’s life, and could not be used lightly by or of him. No doubt he found in the cheerful gravity of this Oberland guide, and a graciousness of nature which never sank into unmeaning geniality, a relief to his own moods of grim but not ungracious taciturnity. But if we could determine which points were identical and which complementary, we should have gone far in reading two characters, both original, and each, in very different ways, unique.

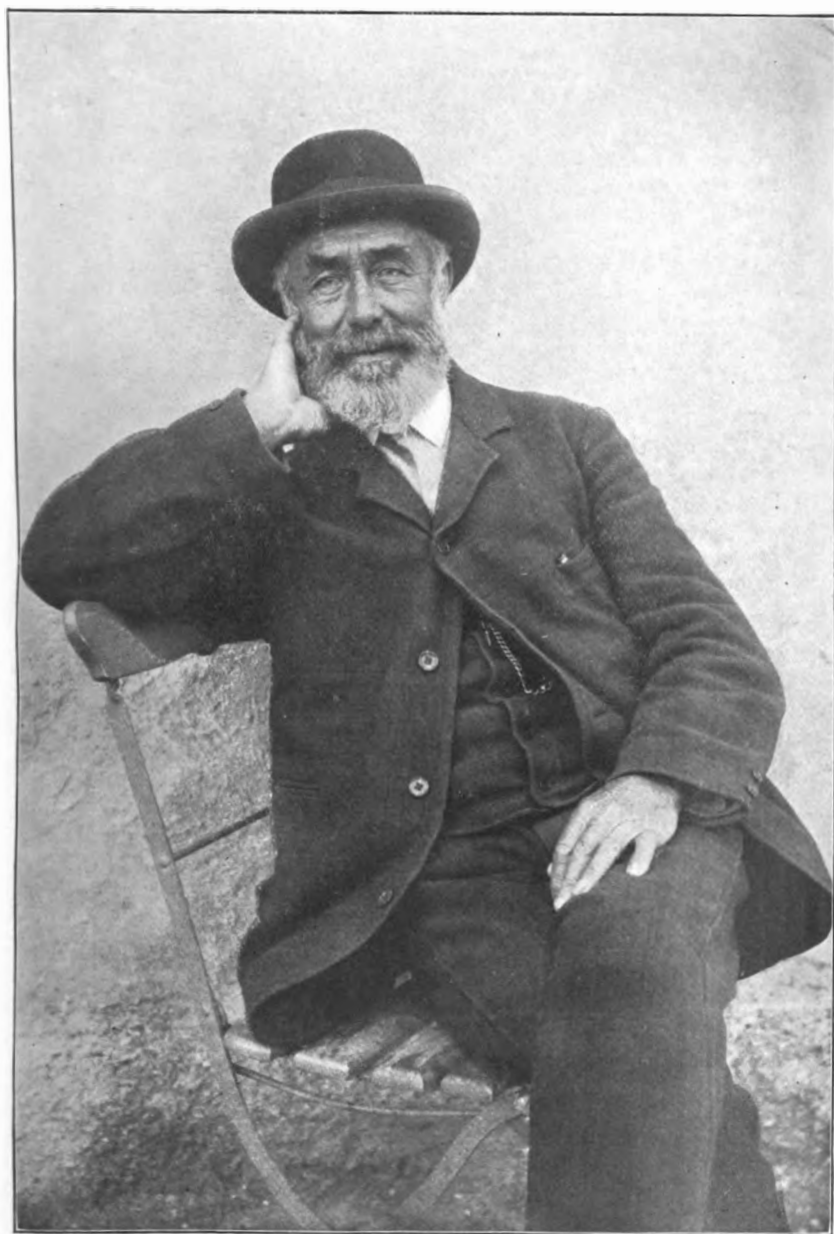
Mr. C. E. Mathews seems to have made Melchior’s acquaintance in 1858. In 1860 there was a remarkable assault on the Weisshorn, in which a Valais guide assisted. It is described in the *JOURNAL*, ‡ and, rather more fully, in Studer’s volumes. In a notice of Mr. Mathews in ‘*Alpina*’ Dr. H. Dübi speaks of Melchior as having given him, in conversation, a lively account of this expedition. It will be very interesting if more of such ‘Table Talk’ should be reported through any Swiss or other source. A lifelong and intimate friendship followed. In the early spring of 1888 Melchior was a guest at Mr. Mathews’ cottage near Machynlleth, and was taken to Pen-y-gwryd. § ‘He accompanied us on an ascent of Snowdon by way of Crib Goch. I led all the way, and as the snow was deep and very soft it was not an altogether easy task. In one place I hesitated for a few seconds. Melchior instantly forged to the front and proffered his services, which I emphatically declined.

* *A.J.* xi. 42.

† *Life of Sir Leslie Stephen*, p. 96 &c.

‡ *A.J.* i. 45.

§ *Reminiscences of Pen-y-gwryd*, p. 21.



Mrs. Aubrey le Blond, photo.

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MELCHIOR ANDEREGG,
1895.

“No,” I said, “I am guide to-day, and you are the Herr.” On reaching the summit of Crib Goch, there was the peak of Snowdon on our left, a great white cone rising into a blue sky. Melchior, whose knowledge of Swiss distances is faultless, at once said “We must go back; we cannot climb the final peak in less than five or six hours.” “Oh, yes,” I said, we shall be there in an hour.” “That, sir,” was his reply, “is quite impossible.” In five minutes over the hour we were on the top of Snowdon. In the course of the same visit the same host took him, by way of variety, down a deep coal-pit. ‘I can see him now, clad in a miner’s jacket, holding a dip-candle stuck into a lump of clay, watching the colliers at work with the grave earnestness which is his distinguishing characteristic.’*

In his earlier visit to this country Mr. Hinchliff had set him to find his way, on first principles, from London Bridge Station to Lincoln’s Inn Fields, in which enterprise, with one slight check, he triumphantly succeeded.†

Mr. Morshead made his acquaintance in the early ‘sixties. This, too, led to an enduring friendship, based on mutual respect of mountaineering powers, and even more on some common points of character, and it extended, or extends, to the families on both sides.

We have no distinct information as to the steps by which Melchior trained himself as a guide, and adopted the profession. His career of full activity is covered by the forty years which ended in 1893. A list of his ‘New Expeditions’ drawn up by Dr. Andreas Fischer, his godson, and presumably authorised by himself, enables us to take a general survey of it. References to articles which have appeared in this JOURNAL are added. Particulars of the climbs in the region of Mont Blanc will be found in their place in Mr. Mathews’ monograph volume, and all are duly recorded by Studer.

Melchior Andereg’s ‘New Expeditions.’

- 1856. Lämmerjoch (with Hort and Lightfoot).‡
- 1858. S. or W. Wildstrubel (3251 m.) from the E. (with Stephen and Hinchliff).
- 1859. Mont Blanc by the Bosses Ridge (with Ch. Hudson, Hodgkinson, and Joad), Rimpfischhorn (with Stephen).§
- 1860. Alphubel, Blümlisalphorn, Oberaarhorn (all with Stephen).
- 1861. Mont Blanc from St. Gervais by Aiguille and Dôme du Goûter and Bosses (with Stephen and Tuckett).
- 1862. Monte della Disgrazia (with Stephen and E. S. Kennedy).||

* *Pioneers*, p. 90.

† P. 89.

‡ *Life and Letters of F. J. A. Hort*, vol. i. p. 307.

§ *Times* of Aug. 5, 1861. Letter of Mr. Tuckett.

|| *A.J.* i. 3.

1863. Dent d'Hérens (with Hall, Grove, Macdonald, and Woodmass) *; Parrotspitze (with Grove, Macdonald, and Woodmass) †; Col de la Tour Noire (with Macdonald and H. B. George) ‡; also second ascent of Mönch (with Macdonald).§
1864. Balmhorn (with the three Walkers) ||; Zinal Rothhorn (with Stephen and Grove) ¶; Roththal-Sattel, as a pass (with Stephen, Grove, and Macdonald).**
1865. Mont Blanc from the Brenva Glacier (with F. and H. Walker, Moore, and G. S. Mathews).††
1867. M. Civetta in the Dolomites (with Tuckett).‡‡
1868. Grandes Jorasses, higher point; Mont Pourri by the N. arête (both with H. Walker).§§
The 'Sattel' of Monte Rosa reached from the Grenz Glacier (with K. E. Digby and R. B. Heathcote).|||
1871. Mont Mallet (with Stephen, F. A. Wallroth, and G. Loppé).¶¶
1877. Unter Gabeljoch; Nordend by the N.W. arête (both with F. Morshead).***
1881. Lauterbrunnen Breithorn by the W. arête (with H. Walker and Moore).

To this list should be added the first passage of the (Unter) Studer Joch in 1863 (with Grove, Macdonald, Buxton, and Hall).†††

It is noted that through the years 1859-1879 Melchior Andereg was constantly engaged by Miss Walker.

The items on this list are of various importance, and some of them must be taken with a qualification. Thus no part of the ascent of Mont Blanc from St. Gervais in 1861 was new, though the combination gave a complete and direct route from St. Gervais to the summit, and a real second mode of ascending the mountain. The route up the Grandes Jorasses in 1868 followed that taken by Mr. Whympere and Mr. George in 1865, but this was the first time the Eastern and higher point was reached. E. S. Kennedy's paper on the Monte della Disgrazia, the first article in the first number of the JOURNAL, is written in a discursive vein, and gives us many glimpses into the personality of Melchior. The Zinal Rothhorn stands out as a peak distinguished on its merits, and as the theme of an Alpine Classic. The Col de la Tour Noire in 1863 was a very arduous expedition, and it appears to have been, and probably was, the first occasion when Melchior Andereg was associated with Christian Almer. 'Rivals in reputation,' writes Mr. George, 'they

* <i>A.J.</i> i. 209.	† <i>Ibid.</i> i. 199 (see p. 57).
† <i>Ibid.</i> i. 274.	‡ <i>Ibid.</i> i. 423.
‡ <i>Ibid.</i> i. 378.	§ <i>Ibid.</i> i. 433 and ii. 67.
<i>Ibid.</i> ii. 161.	¶ <i>Ibid.</i> ii. 132 and 369.
** <i>Ibid.</i> ii. 161.	†† <i>Ibid.</i> iv. 157.
†† <i>Ibid.</i> iv. 42.	‡‡ <i>Ibid.</i> v. 297.
‡‡ <i>Ibid.</i> iv. 157.	§§ <i>Ibid.</i> i. 364.
<i>Ibid.</i> viii. 339.	¶¶ <i>Ibid.</i> i. 364.
*** <i>Ibid.</i> viii. 339.	††† <i>Ibid.</i> i. 364.

yet work together like brothers,'* and so it always was between the two men. We find them together again in Mr. Macdonald's ascent, in the same year, of the Mönch by the S.W. ridge. The ascent of Mont Blanc from the Brenva Glacier in 1865 was a climb of the first order in every sense, and is admirably described by A. W. Moore.† It is one in which both Mr. F. Walker, then nearly sixty years of age, and Mr. Horace Walker took part. Melchior had reconnoitred the ground in 1863, and had pronounced against the enterprise with considerable emphasis, but he consented to make the attempt. At the critical moment when the party emerged on 'the narrowest and most formidable ice arête I ever saw,' Jakob happened to be leading, and to this the perseverance in the expedition, and its ultimate success, are ascribed; not that courage was lacking in Melchior, but that prudence was conspicuously absent in his cousin, who plunged into the irrevocable without stopping to consult his party. The passage once made, there was no more hesitation or foreboding. 'We must get up, for we cannot go back,' said Melchior; and he steered a way through the upper séracs by his own happy insight, ending with one of those feats of actual gymnastic on ice which, even at a much later period, it was a marvel to witness.

The ascent of Mont Blanc in 1859, which proved that the Bosses Ridge was traversable, is described by Mr. Tuckett in a letter to *The Times* of August 5, 1861.

The list of New Expeditions is useful as a guide, but does not nearly exhaust his recorded notable climbs. We have already mentioned the attempt on the Weisshorn in 1860, which failed through no fault of Oberländer or Englishman. A very severe, and indeed terrible, Alpine adventure, trying to the uttermost the powers of guides and travellers, was the ascent of the Matterhorn from Breuil with Mr. C. E. Mathews and Mr. F. Morshead in 1871.‡ And there are many others. Yet perhaps it is not so much by these brilliant records that the great fame of Melchior should be justified to those who come after, as by the qualities which stand out in memory to all who have seen him at work even on the most familiar ground. There was the faculty, found in greater or less degree in all good guides, of divining a way through a tangle of séracs or off a glacier without local knowledge, and this assisted by bodily feats of working up or down a smooth surface of ice with no visible points of adhesion, which would move wonder even in those who knew his ways well. The ice-axe was wielded with singular grace and ease, and in a manner characteristic of himself (some details are noticed in the Badminton volume, p. 169). As a step-cutter on the longest and most formidable ice-wall he was of skill and endurance quite inexhaustible, as is noticed in many narratives. The frontispiece of 'The Playground of Europe' shows him leading on the

* *A.J.* i. 287.† *Ibid.* ii. 371.‡ *Ibid.* v. 259.

Rothhorn, and the pose of the figure is discussed by Sir L. Stephen in an interesting letter of 1871 to Mr. Whymper.* These points are mainly physical; there was also the capacity of a born leader for arranging his party so as to get the utmost out of every member, and keeping all under observation. 'However intently he may be occupied, he always knows what each member of the party is about.' His own place might be anywhere in the caravan, but when a lead was needed he instinctively forged to the front, or, if there was a weak point, there he would be found quietly reinforcing it. A well-marked trait was what can only be called his chivalry, as in the refusal to see a nervous or overweighted porter put upon. Often he would shift a great load of wood or provisions to his own very powerful shoulders in case of encountering difficult ground in the early stages of an ascent, and he was equally considerate of the old and weak. He would use few words, and very few hard ones, but there was a flash of the eye which carried exhortation to the most impenitent. 'Sacramento! nicht so schnell!' on a passage of steep rock with new snow, was noticed by a close observer as about as strong an expletive as ever passed his lips, and that an exotic. A slight stammer or hesitation gave point to all his utterances, such as the famous 'Ja, es geht, aber ICH gehe nicht.' His well-known caution was an invariable feature; many a fine expedition, as it may afterwards have turned out, was pronounced beforehand 'eine Dummheit,' with epithets of varied force. This was not due to any overclouding of the man by the mountain gloom; on the contrary, when the die was cast, his spirits would rise, as Sir L. Stephen observes, in proportion to the difficulty. But he would have nothing left to the valour of ignorance; every strong point against success should be reckoned with in advance; the game must have its risks, but were the particular risks fairly within the four corners of the game, as the rational man might judge them? And if he consented to take a hand, he would always be for going forward until advance became indefensible.

An incident of August 1883, showing his thoughtful care for others, will not easily be forgotten among guides. In descending the Dent d'Hérens, Ulrich Almer was struck by an enormous stone shortly below the summit. With great pluck, he refused to be carried, and ultimately walked down to the Stockje hut. But the party was obliged to spend the whole night on the Col de Valpelline, during which Melchior tenderly cared for the wounded comrade, taking off his own coat to cover him, and himself braving the cold in his shirt sleeves.

In 1864 Melchior Andereg married the wife who has been the mother of his eight sons and four daughters, and the companion and nurse of his latest years. One son, who bears his father's name, is the well-known landlord of the Hotel Andereg in Meiringen;

* Maitland's *Life of Sir L. Stephen.*

he had received mountain training in early life, and occasionally joins an expedition. Another, Peter, also of Meiringen, is in the foremost rank of guides. The death of Andreas in 1897,* caused by an avalanche started in the descent from the Jungfrau, was a great grief to the family. It is noted that, with prudence and firm will worthy of his father, Andreas had insisted on the abandonment of the attempt, owing to the dangerous state of the snow. Melchior, who had himself passed by the particular spot fifty or a hundred times, was himself on the Wetterhorn with Mr. C. E. Mathews, and heard of the disaster on his return to Grindelwald. This was a cloud on what has been, we may venture to hope, a life of unusual completeness and prosperity. Melchior took much pride in the affairs of Meiringen, and was a promoter of the fine development of the Aar Schlucht. He would come down from Zaun, where he and Frau Anderegg loved to receive their friends in cheerful hospitality, to guide a visitor through the intricacies of its bridges and galleries. He showed a critical admiration of the fine stores of wood-carving in which the modern town abounds. 'Few men,' wrote Mr. Mathews in 1887, 'are held in such esteem by their neighbours and their friends. His temper is so even and his judgment so sound that in disputes among his own people his decision has often been sought and accepted as final with perfect satisfaction by men who, but for him, would have gone to law against each other.'

Given a warm and vivacious temperament, and the constant opportunities which the chamois hunter or mountain guide has of taking in impressions

'From Nature and her overflowing soul,']

we cannot be surprised to find that a sense of natural beauty is claimed for him by those who knew him best. Not that he was likely to spend many words on any such emotions. But his face would be 'lit up with genuine enthusiasm as he exclaimed "Schön! Schön!"' at the sudden revelation of the glories of a sunset or the first flush of a sunrise. In the account of the Brenva ascent of Mont Blanc, when he went forward to reconnoitre at a critical moment, we are told that he came back with the breathless report: 'Ein schöner Eisfall! Einen solchen Eisfall habe ich niemals gesehen!' †

A capital instance of versatility and quickness in entering into the interests of others, however novel, will be found in Captain Abney's remarks on help given in his sunlight experiments, at the end of the chapter on 'The Portraits' in 'Pioneers.' ‡ 'Whatever he does he does well.' 'After a quarter of an hour's instruction he was *au fait* at what I wished him to undertake; a heliostat then to him became an entity, and a beam of sunlight an object worthy of all

* A.J. xviii. 557.

† *Ibid.* ii. 374.

‡ P. 84.

respect. In fact he paid as great attention to the spectroscope as he did to the details of travel.' The figure in the accompanying vignette is very characteristic and will remind many of Melchior's vigilance as to the packing of ' details of travel ' quite other than the heliostat.

Alpine interests are for the moment in abeyance. When they are resumed in a happier time, a new generation of climbers will look back to its origins, and will find itself confronted in all the records by the masterful personality of ' the gallant Melchior Andereg.* ' Perhaps what will seem most interesting in it will be the union of opposites in happy commixture ; of versatility with steadiness of purpose, of energetic courage with unvarying prudence, of love for his own countrymen with a singular openness to the moods of Englishmen. For the present, we may leave him with the farewell words written in 1892 by the old friend already quoted, only adding one of grateful admiration for the following years of venerated age, in which the western slopes of life have been lighted up by a steady and beautiful glow, and good service has been done to a new generation by the mere survival of a standard and an example :—

' How difficult the task is to set down plain facts about such a man and yet to avoid the charge of exaggeration can be known only to those who, like myself, have had the priceless advantage of his friendship and his companionship for more than thirty years. I could express no better wish for the dearest friend of mine than that, when his time comes to climb the steep hills of life, he may have such a companion to share the perils of the journey, and such a leader to point out the way.' †

A. O. P.

The 1859 photograph of Melchior is copied from one in the possession of Miss Walker. Her first meeting with him was at the Schwarenbach Inn. She was anxious to make the ascent of the Altels, and her father accordingly insisted that if she was to go up there was only one man to get—Melchior Andereg. Upon asking the porter at the inn for Andereg the answer was ' Ich bin der Andereg,' and so the first of the expeditions that were to range over twenty years was made.

Writing to Mr. Solly, Miss Walker says : ' But for my weakness

* F. F. Tuckett's letter of 1861, quoted above.

† C. E. Mathews in the *Mountaineering* volume of the Badminton Library, p. 371.

I might tell you many nice things about my dear old Melchior. The last message he sent me was about a year ago, that he was bedridden, suffering no pain, and very happy and quite ready to make his last ascension.

One of his last messages also spoke of his gratitude for all the friendship and kindness that he had received from her and her father and brother and other English climbers.

Probably I am one of the youngest climbers who was ever on a rope with Melchior Andereg, and it is on that account that I am asked to add a few words to the notices written by his older friends.

I first met Andereg in 1890 at Grindelwald when he had come over the Wetterhorn with Mr. Horace Walker and Mr. and Mrs. C. Pilkington, and it was owing to my being a friend and near neighbour of Walker that in 1891 I was asked to go with him to the Silvretta district. Besides Walker the party consisted of Ellis Carr and myself, with Andereg and Gabriel Taugwalder, who was then at his best.

We made several of the recognised climbs in the district, which was new to us all, and upon one of them Andereg taught us a piece of mountaineering craft which I have never forgotten. We were on the west side of Piz Linard, intending to descend to Lavin on the south-east. There was nothing to prevent us from getting to the top, but there was a thick cloud covering the last few hundred feet, and Melchior said he would never start to cross a mountain that was in cloud, unless he knew the way down on the other side. The result was that we traversed round until we were able to connect up with the usual route from Lavin, by which we gained the summit. On the descent the clouds came lower, and we got as absolutely soaked as I have ever been. The weather turned bad, and we could do little more for some time, so we travelled round to Macugnaga and came over to Zermatt by the Jägerjoch and Jägerhorn.

In 1896 and again in 1901 I was a member of parties which Melchior accompanied, but he was more as a courier with the ladies, and did not join in any serious climbs. In 1901 I remember that he and Miss Walker ascended a point of the Pitzthaler Urkund, and it is possible that that is the last expedition that either of them made.

It is very difficult to compare Melchior with the best guides of to-day, with very few of whom I have ever climbed. The most difficult rocks that I ever saw him on were those of the Gross Litzner, and the short steep bit of rock leading from the Jägerjoch to the

summit of the Jägerhorn. On these he certainly went excellently, and with all the ardour of youth, but probably some of the younger guides and amateurs of this generation attempt and conquer places which he would, even in his prime, have thought impossible. In snow and ice work I should say he was never surpassed, and when a blizzard came on, as we came down from the Jägerhorn, he at once took the lead and solved the problem of the schrunds and crevasses in most perfect style.

I judge of him as much from what others expressed as from what I saw. Wherever we went in Switzerland, Italy, Austria, or France, as soon as it was known who he was, travellers, peasants, and guides all came to see him and pay homage. It was like a royal progress—handshakings and greetings and photography all the way. I know no other guide who ever held the same position.

I cannot improve on what others are saying of him. We have all known and valued many professional friends in many kinds of sport. I believe that no sportsman ever had for a friend a finer, more noble, or more faithful professional companion than was Melchior Anderegg.

GODFREY A. SOLLY.

The following Notice of Melchior Anderegg from the pen of the late Charles Edward Mathews appeared in the 'Pioneers of the Alps' published in 1887, and is, as well as the Photogravure forming the Frontispiece of this Number, reproduced by kind permission of Captain Sir William Abney, K.C.B., F.R.S., &c., and of the publishers, Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Ltd.

'Melchior Anderegg was born at Zaun near Meiringen, in the year 1828. As a lad he helped his father to tend cattle in the neighbourhood of his native village, and at the age of eighteen he taught himself the art of woodcarving, in which he has attained extraordinary skill. He became in early life an excellent chamois hunter, and the knowledge of crag and glacier so gained enabled him to take a foremost place as a professional guide, at the moment when the craze for Alpine adventure set in. At twenty years of age and for some time afterwards, he assisted his cousin, Johann Frutiger, in the management of the Inn at the Grimsel. The first glacier expedition he made in the capacity of guide was with an English gentleman, Mr. Robert Fowler; but up to the year 1859, when he was thirty-one, there is but little record of his achievements, for his guide's book had been stolen by some man who assumed his name, and who for a short time traded upon his reputation.

The first entry in the book now before me, which contains the testimony of some of our best climbers to his capacity, his courage and his high personal qualities, bears date the 18th of July, 1859, and is signed with the honoured name of Frank Walker. The last entry is dated the 10th of September, 1872, and is signed by M. Albert Millot of Paris. It states "that any recommendation of Melchior Anderegg is unnecessary," and the statement was literally true, for by that time the name of Melchior was as well known as those of the great Mountains he loved so well, and to the summits of which he had conducted so many climbers with such unerring skill, prudence, and success.

The first reference to Melchior in Alpine literature is to be found in "Summer Months amongst the Alps." In that charming book the late Mr. Hinchliff describes his introduction at the Grimsel, in 1855, "to two guides, named Melchior Anderegg and Johann Höckler, both of whom looked very promising fellows." With these guides Mr. Hinchliff made the passage of the Strahlegg to Grindelwald. We hear little of Höckler, except that he carried the cellar. Melchior, as usual, took all the honours of the day.

Some time later, in the same year, Mr. Hinchliff again met his guide of the Strahlegg, "with his apron of green baize," exhibiting his woodcarving to some travellers at the Schwarenbach, and at once engaged him for an ascent of the Altels; after which, says Mr. Hinchliff, "I parted with him with great regret, considering him a most excellent and trustworthy fellow, one of those true and stout hearts with whom it is always a pleasure to be associated." From that time to this Melchior Anderegg has been at the very head of his profession. Climbers not unnaturally think most highly of the guides they know best. Those who have not actually worked with Melchior, and know him only by reputation, may have a preference for Almer or for Lauener, for Dévouassoud or for Rey. But ask them whom they would place second, and the verdict would be unanimous in favour of Melchior Anderegg. The men who could equal Melchior in his best days as a pathfinder or as a cragsman may be counted upon the fingers of one hand, whilst for the combination of qualities which make a guide first rate—capacity, boldness, true prudence, unvarying courtesy, and sweetness of disposition—there is a consensus of opinion among competent judges that there has been no superior to the subject of this memoir.

His first ascents were important, though not very numerous. He led the late Charles Hudson in his ascent of Mont Blanc by Les Bosses du Dromadaire in 1859, and Messrs. Frank and Horace Walker, A. W. Moore and G. S. Mathews in their memorable first passage over the same mountain from Courmayeur to Chamonix by the Brenva Glacier in 1865. In company with Mr. Leslie Stephen he made the first ascent of the Rympfischhorn in 1859, and of the Alphubel, the Oberaarhorn, and the Blümlis Alp in 1860. With Mr. Stephen and Mr. E. S. Kennedy he conquered the Monte Della

Disgrazia in 1862. With Mr. Stephen and Mr. F. C. Grove he first climbed the Rothhorn from Zinal in 1864. He found a new way to the top of the Jungfrau by the Roththalsattel with Mr. Stephen and Mr. R. S. Macdonald in the same year, and in later days, in company with Mr. Stephen and M. G. Loppé, he first reached the summit of the Mont Mallet. He was the first on the Dent d'Hérens, with Messrs. R. S. Macdonald, M. Woodmass, and F. C. Grove, in 1863, first on the Balmhorn with Mr. and Miss Walker* in 1864, and first on the highest peak of the Grandes Jorasses with Mr. Horace Walker in 1868.

‘Melchior is a guide who possesses an irresistible personality. Quiet, grave, sometimes almost taciturn, he, like all really good guides, is seen to the best advantage in critical situations and when real emergencies arise. He is never at fault, he always knows what to do and does it. None of his *Herrschaft* ever dreamed of questioning his decisions or disputing his authority. It is only those who have served under his command, as Sir William Napier so well puts it, who really know “why the soldiers of the tenth legion were attached to Caesar.” His real superiority is only manifested when those who have worked with him have the comparative misfortune to be guided by a less competent man. In the case of all other guides I have known, however eminent they may have been there has been some drawback, some self-assertion, some want of courtesy, some defect of temper, some lack of consideration for the feelings of others. No one ever could or ever did find fault with Melchior Anderegg. Melchior achieved his reputation in the early, almost in the prehistoric, days of mountaineering.

‘It is sad to notice, in looking through the various testimonies to his worth recorded in the book to which I have referred, how many of his former employers are amongst us no more, but “*Litera scripta manet.*” The Rev. Charles Hudson, who perished on the Matterhorn, writes of him “that for difficult ascents, he is incomparably the best guide I ever met with.” And Mr. Hinchliff writes that “on all occasions he proved himself perfect, both as a friend and a companion.” Mr. Frank Walker bears frequent testimony to his “courage, skill, honesty, and true gentlemanly feeling.” Mr. Adams-Reilly describes how on one occasion, when ascending Mont Blanc under Melchior’s guidance in company with another party led by two eminent Chamonix guides, “he and Melchior had crossed the couloir on the Aiguille du Gôüter and smoked a pipe on the opposite side before the other guides had finished consulting as to how the couloir was to be attacked.” Mr. R. S. Macdonald writes that the “praises lavished upon him were justly deserved;” Mr. A. W. Moore that “praise would be superfluous,” while the

* Miss Walker was the first lady to climb regularly, season after season, in the Alps. In company with her father and brother she has ascended most of the great peaks.—C. D. C.

encomiums of living climbers, E. S. Kennedy, Horace Walker, Leslie Stephen, F. Craufurd Grove, F. Tuckett, F. Morshead, and others are hearty and unanimous.

Melchior may be said to have founded a school of Oberland guides. He initiated into the mysteries of the craft such men as Hans Jaun, Andreas Maurer, von Bergen, and others of less note, and his influence is distinctly to be recognized in their method of guiding. Jaun, who has since won so eminent a place in the highest rank of his profession, was first introduced to me by Melchior as a promising young porter. Like all Melchior's pupils he had an almost idolatrous veneration for his master. The cause was easy to understand. I remember on one occasion when Melchior was leading in a position of great difficulty, calling Jaun's attention not only to the confidence which Melchior exhibited, but to the wonderful grace and ease of his movements. "Yes," said Jaun, "but he is the king of guides." To see him at work is both a picture and a lesson. There is no slovenly step-cutting when he leads. In this respect he has had no superior, indeed it may be doubted if he has ever quite been equalled. No Red Indian chief ever found his way through primeval forests more deftly than Melchior finds his pathway in the most difficult séracs, with his active axe held like a racquet in one hand, and his keen eye instantly fixing upon the right foothold. However intently he may be occupied, he always knows what each member of the party behind him is doing, as many a Chamonix porter has found out to his cost when, in a moment of forgetfulness, he has made a careless use of the rope.

Melchior is one of those guides who combine the virtues both of prudence and of courage. He knows when it is right to go on and when it is the truest bravery to turn back. "Es geht, Melchior," said a fine climber once in my hearing when we came to a dangerous spot. "Ja," replied Melchior, "*Es geht, aber ICH gehe nicht.*" The result has been that under his guidance, accidents of any kind have been few and far between. Indeed I know of two only. He led the party over the Col de Miage in 1861, when Mr. Birkbeck fell more than 1700 feet; but the accident happened when that gentleman had unroped, and left his companions, and it was due purely to misadventure. In the year 1883 he led Mr. J. T. Wills and myself up the Dent d'Hérens, and in descending, Ulrich Almer, who was our second guide, was struck by a falling stone and severely hurt. After many hours of labour and anxiety, we succeeded in getting our wounded guide on to the Col de Valpelline at nine in the evening, and had no alternative but to sit out and wait for dawn. The care with which Melchior looked after his injured comrade, and the tenderness which induced him to take off his own coat that his friend might be the better protected, while he himself braved the night cold in his shirt-sleeves, will not easily fade from my recollection.

Melchior's motto is "thorough," and he acts up to it consistently.

No detail seems to escape him. Of this faculty, exercised under very novel circumstances, I venture to give the following illustration. Five and twenty years ago he came to England on a winter visit to some of his old friends. He arrived at the London Bridge Station in the middle of a genuine London fog. He was met by Mr. Stephen and Mr. Hinchliff who accompanied him on foot to the rooms of the latter gentleman in Lincoln's Inn Fields. A day or two later the same party found themselves at the same station on their return from Woolwich. "Now, Melchior," said Mr. Hinchliff, "you will lead us back home." Instantly the skilful guide, who had never seen a larger town than Berne, accepted the situation and found his way straight back without difficulty, pausing for consideration only once, as if to examine the landmarks, at the foot of Chancery Lane.

'On the occasion of his visit to England I thought it would be an amusing change for him to take him down a deep coal-pit. The interest he showed in the working was extraordinary. I can see him now, clad in a miner's jacket, holding a dip candle stuck into a lump of clay, and watching the colliers at work with the grave earnestness which is his distinguishing characteristic.

'Under no circumstances does Melchior forget what he believes to be the interest of his employers. On one occasion Mr. Morshead and myself were at Pontresina, preparing for an ascent of the Bernina. We thought it prudent to retain the services of the chief guide of the district, who not only demanded an enormous fee, but also that we should engage a comrade of his own on similar terms. Melchior was indignant, his sense of honour was touched, and he offered to take us, and did take us, to the summit of the Bernina without local aid. Just and fair in all his own relations with his employers, he resents any attempt at imposition by others.

'The qualities that win the esteem of men are not always those that women most admire. In Melchior, however, there is such a combination, that while some of our best climbers are proud to attribute their successes to his genius and his courage, there are also some of the gentler sex who can never forget what they owe to his unswerving courtesy, gentleness, and kindness of heart.

'I shall have written to little purpose if I have not conveyed the impression that Melchior is more than a mere guide. Few men are held in such esteem by their neighbours and their friends. His temper is so even and his judgment so sound, that in disputes amongst his own people his decision has often been sought and accepted as final, with perfect satisfaction by men who, but for him, would have gone to law against each other.

'He is a genuine artist. In many a London drawing-room or on the table of many a University Don are to be found specimens of his art, which are valued no less for their intrinsic worth than from their being souvenirs of a valued friend. Some years ago the late Mr. Adams-Reilly sent him photographs of the fighting stags, two well-known pictures by Landseer. In a few months there came

back two excellent pieces of carving, which I am happy to have in my possession, executed with vigour and freedom, and not only in exact accordance with the photographs, but in themselves admirable as works of art. It is amazing that a man who was entirely self-taught should not only have been able to turn out such work, but should also have been able to carve life-like statuettes of his friends, which have been found worthy of exhibition in a London Gallery.

‘He is a keen lover of nature. In too many cases, as Mr. Ruskin has truly observed of the Swiss peasant, “the wild goats that leap along those rocks have as much passion of joy in all that fair work of God, as the men that toil among them—perhaps more. The sun is known only as a warmth—the wind as a chill—the Mountains as a danger.” There are guides who regard a gigantic precipice or a lofty aiguille from no other point of view than that raised by the question of whether one can go up or down. Melchior is not of this kind. He understands the lessons which the mountains teach and the glories they reveal. I have many remembrances of scenes of beauty never to be forgotten when, following the cold grey of the early morning, the sun has smitten the great peaks one after another with a crimson flash, or when at sunset the whole western horizon has been one vast flame, and as they recur to me I can recall Melchior’s face lit up with genuine enthusiasm as he exclaimed “Schön! Schön!”

‘In 1864 Melchior married Marguerite Metzener, a girl who at that time had charge of the woodcarving in the Hôtel at the foot of the Rhone Glacier. They have had a numerous family, eight sons and four daughters. The eldest son, also named Melchior, was trained for a guide; he inherited his father’s charming disposition and much of his skill, though not his strength, and it was thought better that he should become a wood-carver only. The second son, Andreas, is a rising guide of great promise, and is likely to succeed to something of his father’s fame.

‘Melchior Anderegg has always preserved a keen attachment for his early patrons. They always had the first claim upon him. If his services at any particular time were not required by Stephen or Walker or Morshead or myself, then, and then only, was he open to fresh engagements, but he always looked forward with the warmest interest to new work with old friends. I am conscious that it is difficult to set down undoubted facts about such a guide as Melchior Anderegg, and yet to avoid altogether the charge of exaggeration. Those who have known this famous guide will make no such charge against me, and if those to whom he is a stranger will look well at the admirable portrait placed opposite this memoir, they will not fail to read in that the record of a noble life. The fine face has more furrows than when I first knew it nearly thirty years ago, and the once jet-black hair is now silvered by the advancing years, but as yet the eye is not dim nor the natural force abated. To say that I owe him a debt impossible to repay is not to say much

He first taught me how to climb. For more than twenty seasons he has led me—in success and in failure—in sunshine and in storm. He has rejoiced with me in happy times; he has nursed me when suffering from accident with a charming devotion. Year after year I have met him with a keener pleasure. Year after year I have parted from him with a deeper regret. He cannot expect to continue for many more years in active occupation, but the recollection of his splendid and faithful services is a priceless possession to those who have known and loved him; and in the green old age which troops of friends so heartily desire for him, he can look back with content and satisfaction upon a prosperous and brilliant career.'

C. E. M.

A COMPARISON AND A TRIBUTE.

THERE has now passed away the other 'of the two men whom common consent places foremost among the pioneers of the Alps.'

Who does not remember Whymper's brilliant words?—'Who is Melchior Anderegk? Those who ask the question cannot have been in Alpine Switzerland, where the name of Melchior is as well known as the name of Napoleon. Melchior, too, is an Emperor in his way and a very Prince among guides. His empire is amongst the "eternal snows," his sceptre is an ice-axe' ('Scrambles,' 2nd edit., p. 192).

* * * * *

'It would be almost an easier task to say what he has not done than to catalogue his achievements. Invariable success attends his arms; he leads his followers to victory but not to death. I believe that no accident has ever befallen travellers in his charge. Like his friend Almer he can be called a *safe* man. It is the highest praise that can be given to a first-rate guide' (p. 193).

For over twenty years—from 1860 to 1880—the names of these two men, Christian Almer and Melchior Anderegk, their only possible equal perishing on the Matterhorn in 1865, dominated the Alpine world. So long as mountaineering counts for anything in the minds of men, so long will the names of these two men stand out as essentially emblematic of that professional skill and of those virtues of endurance, of self-sacrifice in the last resort, that are, not without some show of justice, commonly ascribed to the ideal guide of the High Alps. They were, if you like, in a way, each the other's only rival, and yet few things are more difficult than a comparison of their merits. Even now among mountaineers of experience, guides and amateurs alike, the mention of their names seldom

* A.J. xix. 201. Obituary notice of Christian Almer by the Rev. Hereford B. George.

fails to fill an idle hour with an animated, often heated, discussion of their respective powers, and now, as in their great days, the point is as far off agreement as ever.

In the opinion of those who knew them best, Melchior and Almer were, in their great days, undoubtedly to be regarded as in a class by themselves, and every mountaineer, whatever may have been his secret predilection as between the two, would certainly have accorded the second place amongst the whole body of guides to the other, and that second place would be scarcely below the first.

If they are judged merely by their 'first ascents,' then old Papa Almer is an easy first. But it must always be remembered that, although, most undoubtedly, initiative, energy, and cool, open-eyed daring are the essential requisites in the leader who habitually seeks out new routes, yet he has to depend on others for his *opportunities*, so that no true analogy exists in this feature of their careers.

In wider intelligence, charm of manner, in presence and in extrinsic knowledge, no doubt Melchior bore off the palm; in prudence—since to no party in their charge did ever a serious mishap occur—as in technical knowledge, there can have been little to choose between them. Yet it may well be conceded that in iron determination and possibly in tireless execution old Papa Almer in his great days was without a peer.

One might put it that he was *harder bred*.

We need only recall his descent of the Col Dolent, his ascent of the Silberhorn by the N.W. face, his passage of the Ebnefuhjoch and of the Col des Avalanches—none of which have been repeated—his (the second) ascent of the Meije in 1878, to realise that there was in him something that at times could be relied on to exalt his powers, to work on the stern stuff of his being, making him rise, without any sacrifice of safety, to the performance of, call them if you like, *Dummheiten*, which even the most prudent of us who tread the great mountains knows in his own heart to be of the essence of great deeds.

It has always seemed to one who knew not the men in their great days, and only one of them, at actual work, in his later years, that while Almer, viewed from the purely mountaineering point of view, needed no complement, Melchior might with profit have absorbed a dash of that 'devil' which was so pronounced a feature in his daring kinsman Jakob Anderegg, his companion—possibly chosen out of some unconscious feeling of need—on most of his great climbs, and indeed, in part, his leader on his greatest expedition, the Brenva face of Mont Blanc. To Jakob's character and merits one of the most experienced of our members contributed a critical yet sympathetic testimony in the last volume of this JOURNAL (page 274).

It is worthy of remark that Melchior acted regularly as chief guide to no less than five Presidents of the Club, viz. Hinchliff, Stephen, C. E. Mathews, Craufurd Grove, and Horace Walker, and occasionally to two others, Mr. Charles Pilkington and Sir Edward Davidson.

These constant retainers, of course, made his services practically unavailable to strangers.

We, of this Club, cannot forego our pride in the name of *Engländerführer*, bestowed by their countrymen on these two great guides, even if the name was possibly begotten in some mingled feeling of jealousy of their services to an alien race, not entirely quenched by national pride in and admiration of their deeds.

May they both rest in peace—always warm in our memories!

THE MS. JOURNALS OF THE LATE A. W. MOORE.

As mentioned in the last volume of the *ALPINE JOURNAL* the Committee has been able to purchase these valuable records. The following is the list of the contents and it is proposed to publish from time to time some of the papers.

1860. June 27 to July 13.

1. Paris — Bâle — Lucerne — Altdorf — Rigi — Vitznau — Engelberg — Joch-Pass — Meiringen — Rosenloui — Great Scheidegg—Grindelwald.*
2. Wengern Alp—Lauterbrunnen—engage Ulrich Lauener—cross Petersgrat to Kippel—Brieg.

1861. June 19 to July 19.

Paris—Bâle—Lucerne—Arrival of the Guide Cachat †—Rigi—Altdorf—Surenen Alp — Engelberg — Pfaffenwand—Titlis in bad weather—Joch-Pass—Imhof—Handegg—Grimsel—Rhone Glacier—Attempt on Galenstock—Return to Grimsel—reach summit of the Strahleck but compelled by bad weather to return to Grimsel—Interlachen.

Lauterbrunnen—engage U. Lauener's brother—cross Petersgrat to Kippel—Turtmann Valley—Gruben—Pas de Forcletta—Zinal—Trift Joch.—Zermatt—Riffelberg—attempt to ascend the Lyskamm defeated by hurricane—reach a plateau which lies between the Lyskamm and the Zwillinge from which we got a most magnificent view into Italy—cross the St. Théodule to Val Tournanche and Aosta—reach Courmayeur—cross Col du Géant to Chamounix—leave for the Pierre à Bérard and ascend the Buet—descend to Sixt—Col d'Anterne and Passage des Chenalettes to Chamounix—Home *via* Geneva.

* 'There was great excitement in the inn [the Adler] this evening as four *Englishmen* arrived who had crossed the Strahleck Pass from the Grimsel without guides . . . they had been walking for 16 hours, of which 12 were on the ice.'

† 'He is a short, stout and brawny man, very thickset, with a bullet head adorned with a not very large amount of short black hair—in fact, a thorough Frenchman in appearance.'