

'Ah, no. At Chamonix. I left at 4 A.M.'

'You walk well. Monsieur is doubtless a strong climber?'

'Not at all, but I love the mountains.'

'Monsieur knows them well, no doubt?'

'Alas, no. I have never set foot on a mountain. I live in Paris.'

'But doubtless monsieur is a *Clubiste* and knows well the dangers of the mountains?'

'Yes, I am a *Clubiste*.'

'Of the C.A.F., of course?'

'No, of a bicycling club.'

There was an open crevasse near us. We took him carefully to the edge and told him that it was probably 300 mètres deep. He stepped back hurriedly. I told him that there were others, equally deep, hidden by the snow, and with a little wholesome argument we got him to return with us. He was certainly an exceedingly plucky fellow.

As for us, we had failed, but surely not ignominiously? Still it is probable that if we had taken the Corridor route we should have been sheltered from the wind and might have been successful.

This 'training walk' was the prelude to many grand mountain expeditions, for which I cannot too warmly express my thanks to my three Yorkshire friends, so staunch and true, Eric Greenwood, J. J. and W. A. Brigg, who, during a period of many years, have acquired a comprehensive knowledge of the Alps, from the Maritimes to the Eastern Dolomites, such as few of us possess. Practically, the whole of this has been done without guides. That I may have yet another climb with them is, I trust, not too vain a desire.

#### EARLY ASCENTS OF THE MATTERHORN.

**T**HE 'Travellers' Book'<sup>1</sup> of the Hôtel du Mont-Rose contains no record whatever of the various unsuccessful attacks on the Matterhorn made between the years 1858 and 1865, and the account of the first ascent written by

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<sup>1</sup> [The thanks of the Club are offered to Dr. Alexander Seiler for permission to make these extracts for reproduction here, and to Mr. Henry F. Montagnier for the trouble which he has taken to make them.]

Mr. Whymper a few days after the event has unfortunately been abstracted by some unscrupulous curio hunter. On September 1, 1869, Mr. Whymper entered the following protest against this theft :

Several leaves have been torn from this part of the 'Livre des Étrangers.' These leaves contained an account of the first ascent of the Matterhorn, of the accident which occurred during the descent in which Lord Francis Douglas, Mr. Hadow, Rev. Charles Hudson and the guide Michel Croz lost their lives, and of the means which were taken to recover their bodies.

This account was written for the information of the numerous travellers who visit Zermatt. It bore testimony to the courage of those who so lamentably perished, to the devotion of Michel Croz, and to the gallantry of the guides Franz Andermatten and the brothers Lochmatter, who so nobly volunteered to seek the bodies of those who were lost, when not a single guide in Zermatt would move, in face of threatened excommunication by their priests.

It spoke of the unwearied kindness of Madame and Monsieur Seiler. This account has been appropriated by some person unknown. Other and more valuable things, esteemed by Mons. Seiler, have been stolen from this book.

As the associate of those who lost their lives on July 14, 1865, and of those who subsequently performed an act of the highest courage, and as the friend of Mons. Alex. Seiler, I protest against these thefts. This book is the property of Mons. Seiler, and no one has any more right to take a leaf from it than to steal his money.

To this note a few lines have been added by another writer, but unluckily a portion of the leaf containing the signature, the date, and several words has been torn off :

Owing to the brevity of the above statement one passage has been frequently misunderstood. As one of the nearest relatives of Mr. Hudson, I am anxious to state for the benefit of those who may hereafter read it that the threat of excommunication launched against the Zermatt guides was not intended to prohibit their taking part in the search, but to prevent their missing the Sunday morning mass . . . purpose. The fact that Michel Croz was a Roman Catholic should of course remove the idea that the object was to prevent their doing a service to those of another creed.

LOUIS GEORGE . . . <sup>2</sup>

On August 17, 1867, Mr. Craufurd Grove gives an interesting account of the second ascent of the Matterhorn by a traveller,

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<sup>2</sup> [This, we are informed by Mrs. Charles Hudson, was Bishop Mylne, formerly Bishop of Bombay.]

Melchior  
Anderegg.

R. J. S.  
Macdonald.

F. Crawford  
Grove.

Jakob  
Anderegg.

P. Taugwaldor  
*(Jilsz)*.



Leslie  
Stephen.

W. F. Short.

E. N. Buxton.

R. Liveing.

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A GROUP IN 1865.

containing many details which are omitted in his paper in the *ALPINE JOURNAL* ('The Northern and Southern Ascents of the Matterhorn,' vol. iv. pp. 185-193):

Having recently ascended the Matterhorn from Breuil, it appears to me that it may not be out of place to give some little information respecting the ascent in this book, as any travellers who may intend ascending the mountain from the South are exceedingly likely to pass through Zermatt on their way to Breuil.

I left Breuil on August 13 accompanied by J. A. Carrel, J. B. Bich and Salomon Meinert, all of Valtournanche. These three went with me to the summit. Augustin Meinert, also of Valtournanche, was taken with us as a porter to the grotto. During the first day (Aug. 13) we ascended to the Grotto, which I may explain is a hut or refuge which has been constructed very high on the shoulder of the mountain, just over the narrow band of snow known as the 'Cravatte.' The way thither presents considerable difficulty, which, however, is much alleviated by cords, which have been fixed in the worst places. In fine weather with the rocks clear of snow there is nothing to prevent travellers from ascending to this point, passing the night there and returning to Breuil the next day, and I think they will find it well worth the trouble, but the expedition should not, in my opinion, be undertaken in bad weather or when there is snow on the rocks, as the ascent might prove exceedingly dangerous.

On the second day (Aug. 14) we left the Grotto and reached the summit, returning to the Grotto to pass the night. The ascent occupied about six hours and a half, and the descent very little less. I am exceedingly anxious not to exaggerate dangers and difficulties and not to prevent travellers from ascending this extraordinary peak, but I can only truthfully describe the impressions which the Matterhorn has left upon me by saying that the difficulty of ascending the final arête appeared to me to surpass anything which I had encountered in any other part of the Alps.

The expedition may, however, I believe, be made in safety by travellers well accustomed to mountain-climbing and accompanied by first-rate guides, provided always that the weather be good and the rocks free from snow, but I would most emphatically warn mountaineers against attempting the ascent in bad weather or when there is snow on the rocks, or without good and reliable guides, of whom there should be, in my opinion, two for each traveller.

The summit of the Matterhorn consists of a long arête of snow. The flagstaff planted by the Italian party we found still standing, and fastened our flag to it. We saw also the flagstaff planted by Mr. Whymper's party, which is placed some little distance to the east of the Italian one, at a place where the arête appeared to rise about to a level with the spot on which we stood.

Without instruments I could not determine whether the site

of Mr. Whymper's flagstaff was or was not level with the Italian flagstaff, but it was probably lower by some small degree than the Italian one on the day when we ascended, as we could see the foot of the lower arête of Monte Rosa over it. The ridge probably varies a good deal at different times, inasmuch as the spot on which the Italians erected their flagstaff in a heap of loose stones is now a ridge of snow. Mr. Whymper's party have also erected a cairn on the western extremity of the arête, close by the place where the Italian guides subsequently planted their flagstaff.

I cannot speak too highly of the three men who went with me to the summit, Carrel, Bich and Salomon Meinet, and I thoroughly advise any one attempting the ascent to have at least one of them with him. Carrel was the leader and did most of the difficult work. Augustin Meinet, who went with us to the Grotto, is very willing and hard working. I may perhaps be permitted to add that I found civility and attention and the most moderate charges at the little hotel at Breuil, which has, as it appears to me, been very unjustly complained of.

On October 7, 1867, Mr. William Leighton Jordan describes in detail the third ascent effected by a tourist<sup>3</sup>:

Having last week ascended the Matterhorn from Breuil, I enter here a few remarks which may be of interest to any mountaineers who may next season attempt the ascent either from this side or from Breuil. At 5.15 A.M., on the 1st inst. I left the Hôtel Mont Cervin at Breuil in company with the guides Jean Joseph Maquignaz and Jean Pierre Maquignaz, having with me also Victor Maquignaz, Emmanuel Maquignaz, César Carrel and François Ansermin to act as porters to the 'cabane' on the 'Cravatte.' We reached the 'cabane' at 3.45 P.M., having spent an hour en route (from 11.15 to 12.15) at the 'hut' besides other stoppages.

On the morning of October 2 we left the 'cabane' at 5.40 A.M.; our party consisting of myself and the three brothers Joseph, Pierre and Victor Maquignaz, the latter having requested to be allowed to accompany us as a volunteer. We reached the Peak Tyndall at 6.10 A.M., traversed the arête Tyndall at 7.15 A.M., reached the Col Félicité (the point at which the new route diverges from that followed by Abbé Gorret in 1865, and by Mr. Grove this year) at 7.45 A.M.

At 9.50 A.M. we reached the summit of the western peak. The Italian flag and flagstaff which we found there we removed (excepting the stump and a long splinter) to the eastern peak, where we bound it to the stump of Mr. Whymper's flagstaff, which we discovered after removing a considerable amount of snow and ice from what appeared to us to be the highest point of the mountain. We found traces of

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<sup>3</sup> [Mr. Leighton Jordan's note in the book at the inn at Breuil was reprinted, 'A.J.' xxx. 321-3. The present note contains a few minor details in addition.]

each party which had preceded us on the mountain ; namely, on the eastern peak, Michel Croz's shirt, left as a flag by Mr. Whymper's party on July 14, 1865, found buried in snow and ice close to the stump of the eastern flagstaff ; and on the western peak the remnants of an Italian flag left by the guides Carrel and Bich (the Abbé Gorret's party on July 16, 1865), also found buried in snow and ice ; Bich's coat left by Mr. Grove's party on August 14 this year ; and the greater part of a red and white flag left by the guides Joseph and Pierre Maquignaz on September 13 this year. The stumps of both flagstaves were firmly frozen in solid ice and snow, the difficulty of digging in which prevented our attempting any search for the bottle left by Mr. Whymper's party.

At 11.15 A.M. we commenced to descend the Zermatt arête (which terminates in the Hörnli), and descended as far as a point at which, in an attempt to ascend the mountain from this side, I turned back on September 10 in a snowstorm, with Pierre Knubel and Jean [Joseph] Marie Lochmatter. After thus making certain of a route by which, in confidence of fine weather, we intended to descend to Zermatt on the following day, we spent some time in endeavouring to make out a better though a more giddy route down the rocky face which looks towards the Riffel and Monte Rosa.

Having lingered about these glorious slopes as long as we considered prudent at this season of the year, we returned to the summit, which we regained at 2.15 P.M., and reached our sleeping quarters at the 'cabane' (or grotto) on the Breuil side of the mountain at 5.40 P.M. Nearly an hour in the ascent from this point to the summit and a full hour in the descent, we employed in changing the position of the ropes left on the route, so as to ease and quicken our intended trip on the following day.

At 3 A.M. on the following morning (October 3) the wind gently cautioned us (Joseph, Pierre and me) to reconsider our plans, and the weather gradually became so threatening that at 6.35 A.M. we commenced a steady retreat from the mountain, resolved not to linger longer until safe on the grass slopes below. The four porters were still somewhat laden in consequence of our having prepared ourselves for the risk of being caught in bad weather at this unseasonable time of the year ; so that the two guides and I, after quitting the glacier at the foot of the mountain, waited nearly an hour for them, within hearing all the time but out of sight in the dense clouds above. We afterwards all together reached the Hôtel Mont Cervin at Breuil at 11 A.M.

A ridge of snow blown up from the northern side, and forming a sharp edge overhanging the southern side, formed the summit of the mountain. Nearly all the arête Tyndall was a truly ticklish bit of work. The rock in the hollow between the two peaks is that of which the greater part of the mountain is composed. And the rocks overlying this, which form the eastern and western peaks (as far as I could judge from the specimens which I could get), are not similar

to each other. But rocks similar to all are abundant lower down on the mountain on both sides. Of course it will be understood that with so much snow on the summit of the mountain my examination was necessarily imperfect. There is granite on both sides of the mountain about half-way up. That on this side is, I think (without having compared specimens side by side), similar to granite on the side of Monte Rosa facing the Col de Lys; but I did not find any on the Breuil side exactly similar to it.

Having traversed both sides of the mountain (that is, from the summit to Breuil and also from the summit to Zermatt) it may be of interest to many if I here state, without fear of future contradiction, that this side of the mountain is naturally easier (or rather less difficult) of ascent than the Breuil side: though the enterprise of the Valtournanche guides, assisted by the liberality of the Italian Alpine Club, in fixing ropes and making a snug sleeping-place, has made the Breuil side more convenient at the present inclement season of the year. As far as my experience of mountaineering in Switzerland goes, this ascent of the Matterhorn is the most glorious and enjoyable trip a mountaineer can make. All who are not fully conscious of perfect self-possession, as well as no small amount of skill and endurance, should consider well the warning given by Mr. Grove some pages further back in this book: but those who 'where the feebler faint, can only feel, feel to the rising bosom's inmost core, their joy awaken and their spirits soar,' may with confidence in fine weather next season make a two days' excursion over the summit of the mountain from this place to Breuil, or from Breuil to this place, if they have with them either Jean Joseph, Jean Pierre or Victor Maquignaz to act as guides for the Breuil side and the summit of the mountain, and either Peter Knubel or Jean [Joseph] Marie Lochmatter to act as guides for that part of this side of the mountain with which the three former are not acquainted. No other men have hitherto traversed the new routes on either side of the mountain. And Mr. Whymper's route on this side, as also that taken by Abbé Gorret's party in 1865 and by Mr. Grove this year on the Breuil side, are not likely to be taken again.

On September 1, 1868, Messrs. W. E. Utterson Kelso and A. J. Girdlestone record the ascent of the Matterhorn:

Ascended the Matterhorn from Zermatt. We found a large amount of loose snow on the lower part of the mountain, which in our opinion was difficult and dangerous in the extreme. Our guides were Joseph Marie Lochmatter and the two Knubels, whom we considered first-rate in every respect.

September 4, 1868, Mr. G. B. Marke writes:

I ascended the Matterhorn on September 3 with Nicolas Knubel and Pierre Zurbriggen (Saas) as guides. Left Zermatt on September

2 at 9 A.M., and reached the chalet at 4.50 P.M. Started next morning at 4.30 A.M., and after an exceedingly difficult and dangerous climb reached the summit at 7.15 A.M. Rested at the summit for five minutes and then descended with great difficulty to the chalet, which we reached at 12.45 P.M. We rested there an hour, and reached Zermatt at 5.50; then ascended immediately to the Riffel, which I reached in 1.35. The expedition is an exceedingly difficult one, requiring at least two guides for each traveller. The weather was magnificent.

September 4, 1868.—Signor Felice Giordano, the first Italian traveller to reach the summit. A detailed narrative of this expedition by Sig. Giordano appeared in the 'Bolletino of the C.A.I. for 1868,' pp. 295-320 ('Ascension del Monte Cervino nel Settembre, dell' Ingegnere Felice Giordano'):

Le 4 septembre j'ai fait l'ascension du Grand Cervin (Matterhorn) en partant de Breuil en Valtournanche, et descendant à Zermatt. Guides J. Ant. Carrel et Joseph Maquignaz, tous deux de Valtournanche.

Je portai avec moi un baromètre (Fortin) pour déterminer l'altitude du sommet et autres points remarquables du pic. Le jour 4 à deux heures après-midi le baromètre placé sur la pointe ouest marquait 448.55 mm., temp. air 0°. J'ai laissé sur le même sommet, et attaché au gros bâton qui s'y trouve planté, un thermomètre à minimum (Fahrenheit de Casella, No. 805). Le premier voyageur intelligent qui fera l'ascension en 1869 est prié de lire le degré de froid sans déranger le dit thermomètre. La glace et la neige qui en cette saison couvrent les parties supérieures du pic, ont rendu ma traversée assez laborieuse; mais quoique nous n'eussions qu'une corde, la grande capacité de mes guides ont vaincu toute difficulté. Je leur rends ici mes éloges. Pendant la descente à Zermatt, presque au pied du pic nous fûmes mis en grand danger par une grosse avalanche de pierres. Il serait désirable pour la plus grande sécurité de la course de ce côté de Zermatt, que le passage fût pratiqué plus près de l'arête et pas dans les couloirs. Les deux baraquements ou refuges construits tant de côté d'Italie que de Suisse sont d'une grande utilité. La première, placée à l'endroit dit 'Cravatte,' se trouve à l'altitude de 41 . . . m. et la seconde à . . . sur la mer. L'ascension et la descente du Matterhorn me semblent pouvoir se faire à peu près également bien tant du côté d'Italie (course que j'avais déjà faite en 1866) que du côté de Suisse; cependant le côté suisse, quoique peut-être dangereux dans la partie située entre l'épaule et l'arête supérieure, qui est fort rapide et formée d'une roche dure sans points d'appui, me semble plus expéditif et plus agréable. Le pic est presque entièrement formé de Gneiss talqueux en couches. Le tout repose sur des couches de calcaire schisteux et des schistes serpenteux chloriteux qui en forment la base générale.

September 9, 1868. M. Paul Sauzet, of Lyons, the first French climber to reach the summit, enters the following lines :

Première ascension du Mont Cervin faite par un français ; Guides Joseph Maquignaz et Antoine Carrel ; pour la première fois arrivé au sommet et descendu jusqu'à Breuil dans la même journée.

### THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA.

[We have ventured to reprint this letter.—EDITOR.]

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA.

*Greeting :*

As a national organisation, the Alpine Club of Canada has nobly upheld the best traditions of the Empire. Canadians have covered themselves with glory, and not least among them are the Members of the Club who have fought abroad or worked at home in the Empire's cause.

Some ninety-five members have been enrolled for Active Service. Of these, as far as we know, three have joined the Supreme Honour Roll, fifteen have been wounded, two are prisoners of war, three have won the D.S.O., four have won the Military Cross, two have won the Cross of the Legion of Honour, one the D.C.M. ; there have been nine mentions in despatches, one lady member has been decorated and one has been given the rank of Hon. Captain.

This is a record of which we may well be proud, and one that will closely bind the traditions of the Club with the traditions of the Empire of which it is a part.

The Alpine Club of Canada is striving to hold its own during these years of difficulty and stress. It is doing so on behalf of those at the Front who are eagerly looking to the time when we can again unite in peace and happiness around the camp fire beneath the snow-clad peaks we love so well.

We at home are trying to do our part and to stand firmly together, shoulder to shoulder, so that when the time comes—and God grant that it may come soon—we can give our men the welcome they deserve and show them how truly we appreciate the great and glorious sacrifices they are making for us, for our liberty, and for our homes.

I ask all members to give every possible help to this end. Such help can best be given by remaining members of the Club, so that in future years of peace we shall have the right to point with pride to the traditions created for our Club by its soldier members in the time of war.

With sincere good wishes to you and the hope that the New Year