

CHARLES HUDSON.

1828—1865.

## DAYS OF LONG AGO.

CHARLES HUDSON, THE PROTOTYPE OF THE MOUNTAINEER  
OF TO-DAY.

*'We look forward, yet cannot but look back also. In the earlier pages of the JOURNAL our readers will meet and recognize the touch of some vanished hands. May the JOURNAL serve to keep green the memory of these old friends.'*

—C. T. DENT, President A.C., on 'The Hundredth Number of the ALPINE JOURNAL,' A.J. xiii. 497-8.

*'The old spirit, Stephen's spirit, survives in it, [the JOURNAL]. . . . It has served and still serves its purpose in bringing back to many and revealing to some the pleasures of the heights, in forming a link between successive generations of mountain-lovers and keeping alive the memory of our founders and forerunners.'*—D. W. FRESHFIELD, 'A.J.' xxiii. 496.

**I** REMEMBER no article in the JOURNAL which brings more vividly to my mind the splendid past of our Club than the 'In Memoriam' notice, in a late number, of Melchior Anderegg, signed 'A. O. P.' One knows not whether to admire more the charming style of the article or the infinite care—so obviously a labour of love—bestowed upon it. The paper was ostensibly the memorial of a man of undying name, tracing his career from its Alpine inception to its crown, as with sublime patience, with matchless serenity, he lay waiting for 'his last ascension.'

To my mind it is in effect an epitome of much of the early history of this Club, a reflexion of its loyal friendships, of its undying memories, of its splendid traditions.

I was led to turn up some of the old letters to *The Times* quoted by the author of the notice—'the touch of some vanished hands,' and I am induced to reprint some of them here in the certain conviction that we do endorse the splendid faith of our two Past Presidents—one now gone before—'May the JOURNAL serve to keep green the memory of these old friends.'

The first letter, from *The Times* of August 11, 1859, is by

Charles Hudson and recounts the first passage of the Bosses arête of Mont Blanc. It reads as follows :—

#### ANOTHER ASCENT OF MONT BLANC.

*To the Editor of 'The Times.'*

SIR,—Although you pronounced Mont Blanc a 'nuisance' and declared that nothing new could be said on the subject, you may not be unwilling to introduce a short notice of an ascent made last week, inasmuch as the summit was reached by a route hitherto generally supposed impracticable. The party leaving Chamounix consisted of the Revs. E. Headland, G. Hodgkinson, and C. Hudson, and Messrs. W. Forster and George Joad, and was accompanied by six Chamounix guides, Melchior Anderegg of Meyringen, and Joad's servant. We passed the night of July 28 at the Grands Mulets, started at 4 A.M. the following day for the Grand Plateau, which was reached at 7. Here the party divided. Mr. Forster and three guides went by the Corridor and Mur de la Côte, and the others, turning more to the right, gained, in an hour and a quarter, a point on the ridge which connects the Dôme du Goûter with Mont Blanc. At 9 o'clock we were once more *en route*, and at 1 P.M. gained the summit by traversing the Bosse du Dromadaire, or, in other words, by continuing to climb the ridge already alluded to. Though this route is free from crevasses, rocks, or any great difficulty, it is only within the last year or two that any of the Chamounix or St. Gervais guides would admit its practicability. As proof of this I may mention that not one of our six [Chamonix] guides had the least idea we should succeed, and those three who went with us stipulated that they should receive each his 100 f. even though we did not get up. Mr. Forster was only a few minutes later than ourselves.

The Bosse du Dromadaire does not shorten the ascent from Chamounix, but is a great boon for the St. Gervais people. From the St. Gervais sleeping-place, on the Aiguille du Goûter, to the Dôme du Goûter, is one and a half hour's walk, and thence to the highest peak three and a half or four hours; thus the whole of the second day's ascent need not occupy more than five or five and a half hours, which is considerably less than the time required from the Grands Mulets.

Another peculiar feature in this ascent is that we were

the first to avail ourselves of the change recently made in the Chamounix guide regulations, which was effected by the representatives of the Alpine Club, and the kindly offices of the Sardinian Ambassador in London and Count Cavour. Instead of taking four guides for each, no matter how great the number of travellers, it is now permitted for one gentleman to mount with two guides, two with three, and for any greater number one guide for each tourist. Travellers are also allowed to choose their guides for the greater excursions, and under a variety of specified circumstances.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. HUDSON.

Valley of Sixt, Savoie, August 6 [1859].

P.S.—I may mention that I was one of the five who ascended Mont Blanc from St. Gervais in 1855 without guides.

There is a peculiar, almost tragic, interest in this expedition. It was the meeting, for the second and almost last time in their lives, of the great English amateur, fated six years later, at the zenith of his reputation, to pass hence on the Matterhorn, and of the coming young guide, destined, over half a century later, to go down, in the fulness of years and renown, to an honoured grave, after a life of brilliant service rendered mostly to our own countrymen, and countrywoman—for far be it for us of the Alpine Club to forget for one moment the honoured name of Miss Lucy Walker. They were much of an age—Melchior about thirty-two, Hudson a few months younger. While Hudson himself was well acquainted with the Savoy side of Mont Blanc, this was, incidentally, Melchior's first great expedition,<sup>1</sup> and it shows that already at this early period of his career he had given indications of skill and determina-

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<sup>1</sup> His discoverer and one of his earliest patrons, Hincliff, with R. Walters, ascended Mont Blanc on July 30, 1857, but, with the avowed object of defying the Chamounix Règlement, employed Chamounix guides, Zacharie Cachat being the leader. See *P.P.G.* I. 128, and *Fraser's Magazine* 1869, where Hincliff describes his ascent.

There is a very short entry in Melchior's *Führerbuch*, p. 23, signed Charles Hudson, Samoëns, 9 Aug. 1859: 'Mont Blanc by the Bosses. For difficulties the best guide I ever met.' [Note by Dr. Dübi.]

Melchior in 1858 made with Hudson, Birkbeck, Joad and Victor Tairraz the first recorded passage of the Mönchjoch, of which the original note by Mr. Birkbeck appears in the present JOURNAL.

tion that would infallibly appeal to the indomitable Hudson. Together, by the ascent of the Bosses ridge, they completed the exploration of the Chamonix face, putting the crown on the work commenced by Bourrit's guides, Marie Couttet, 'chamoiseur à Chamouni,' and François Cuidet, 'du Hameau de la Grue,' in 1784,<sup>2</sup> and by Balmat<sup>3</sup> two years later, their

<sup>2</sup> From the Dôme du Gôûter they apparently went along towards the Mont Blanc as far as the rocks where the Vallot hut now stands. Cf. Bourrit, *Nouvelle Description*, 1785, vol. iii. 301 *seq.*, and *Annals of Mont Blanc*, by C. E. Mathews, 38 *seq.*, and particularly *Paccard v. Balmat*, pp. 30-32 and 262, by Dr. Dübi, one of the ablest examinations of a subject which I ever read.

There is no reason to question their remarkable performance.

<sup>3</sup> Balmat, according to *Annals*, p. 60, 'had gone nearly a quarter of a league, almost sitting astride on the top of the arête which joins the Dôme du Gôûter to the top of Mont Blanc. It seemed a path only fit for a rope-dancer, but I did not care, and I believe that I should have reached the top if the Pointe Rouge had not barred the way. As it was impossible, however, to get any further, I returned to the spot where I had left my companions, but found nothing but my knapsack.'

It should be noted that this is Balmat's account, recorded by Dumas as dictated in 1832, of events that happened forty-six years before. Balmat left a contemporary account of his ascent (*A.J.* xxi. 408 *seq.*, and *Annals*, 103 *seq.*) in which his claim is less definite in details.

I do not know what he means by the 'Pointe Rouge.' There are no rocks on the route that I remember except the Vallot hut rocks and, much higher up, the Tournette. Neither of these, with the widest latitude of expression, can be held to block the route.

One must conclude that the veteran's memory, inflated somewhat by *le bon vin* of his interviewer, the elder Dumas, was a bit fruitful, nor must the *délayage* or embroidery of the great novelist be left out of the picture.

If, indeed, Balmat went nearly a quarter of a league along the arête he would have got so near the top that he would, on his next assault, certainly not have sought the Ancien Passage, so that his quarter of a league must be heavily discounted. The Bosses are not always easy. When the Sellas crossed the Mont Blanc in winter, descending the Bosses, Daniel Maquignaz told me 'J'ai dû tailler toute la Bosse, et j'ai été bien content d'avoir derrière moi un fort gaillard comme Jean Fischer.' Fischer at that time was staying the winter with Emile Rey at La Saxe to learn French. He was killed a few months later in the Caucasus with Donkin and Fox, as was his father, the well-known Johann Fischer, in 1874, on the Brouillard Glacier, and his brother Dr. Andreas Fischer, in 1912, on the Mittel Aletsch Glacier (*A.J.* xxvi. 456).

The account of Balmat's attempt is given in Carrier's 'Notice

organised forces enabling them to face with easy confidence difficulties that had driven back their less experienced predecessors.

It is not difficult to establish the presumption that Hudson's was the master-mind of this expedition, while Melchior played the chief executive part.

It is most unfortunate that Hudson's published papers on Alpine subjects are extremely few—I shall not be in the least offended by anybody's pointing out others that I have missed. He was joint author with E. S. Kennedy of 'Where there's a Will there's a Way: An ascent of Mont Blanc by a new route and without guides' (1856),<sup>4</sup> which, to quote another

biographique sur Jacques Balmat' somewhat differently and deserves quoting: 'Lorsqu'enfin ils furent réunis, on tint conseil. Les uns faisaient observer que le jour était trop avancé pour s'aventurer plus loin; d'autres, qu'il était encore possible de gagner l'arête qui joint le Dôme au Mont-Blanc, et voir si en la suivant on n'atteindrait pas la cime du Mont-Blanc le jour même. Jacques Balmat était de ce dernier avis.

'Ils s'acheminèrent donc vers cette arête; mais à peine y étaient-ils engagés qu'ils reconnurent l'impossibilité de l'escalader: outre qu'elle était entrecoupée de crevasses, son sommet était si aigu qu'on n'y pouvait tenir le pied. Balmat seul voulut persister à aller en avant, et pour cela il dût se mettre à califourchon.

'À la vue d'une si grande témérité, ses compagnons, n'ayant pu l'en détourner, le laissèrent, et rebroussèrent chemin contre Chamonix, où ils arrivèrent le lendemain.

'Après de vains efforts, Balmat reconnut lui-même qu'il avait tenté l'impossible; mais le retour était d'autant plus périlleux, qu'il ne pouvait redescendre qu'à reculons.'

See also Coleman's *Scenes from the Snowfields* (1859), p. 13, for a statement by Auguste Balmat.

It is most extraordinary that Balmat seems to have taken part only in the first three, the fifth and sixth ascents, and probably the eighth (Matzewsky; cf. Dr. Dübi's *Paccard*, pp. 158-9 and 172). After the sixth, in 1802, no complete ascent is recorded until 1812, by which time Balmat, born in 1762, was fifty. So that he does not seem to have drawn much profit from his success.

Quite different was the case with Peter Taugwalder, who for over forty years was one of the chief guides on the Swiss side of the Matterhorn, and made the ascent one hundred times or more. He retired some years ago, and lives on his farm near Zermatt.

<sup>4</sup> It ran into two editions. The second, besides containing chapters on an ascent of Monte Rosa in 1854 (by E. S. Kennedy) and in 1855 (by Charles Hudson), gives valuable details (pages 44-54 and 88-92) of Hudson's other attempts on Mont Blanc.

famous author, was one 'of the first literary products of the new English school of mountaineering.' This book should be among the greatest treasures of every mountaineer. It is the earliest record of systematic guideless climbing, and shows the indomitable resolve that has carried the English race wherever a mountain chain exists.

His other publication was a paper in 'P.P.G.' II., on 'The Accident on the Col de Miage.' There exist further the very interesting letter to E. S. Kennedy dated May 19, 1855, printed by the late C. E. Mathews in 'A.J.' xix. 153-4; the letter to *The Times*, printed above; and the following note in the 'livre des voyageurs' of the Hôtel d'Angleterre at Chamonix, first printed in *The Times* of August 2, 1865:—

#### SECOND ASCENT OF THE AIGUILLE VERTE.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, July 4, the Rev. George Hodgkinson, Rev. Charles Hudson, and Mr. Thomas Stuart Kennedy started from Chamounix with Michel Croz, of Le Tour, Michel Ambroise Ducroz, of Argentière, and Pierre Perrin, of Zermatt. The party slept at the Couvercle, and set off the following morning at 2.50 to attack the Aiguille Verte. The morning was clear and lovely, and the snowfields in excellent order. There were no crevasses which much impeded the march, and at the end of two hours the party was at the foot of the peak. Instead of taking the couloir which led directly to the main chain, a route to the left of the Aiguille Verte was selected. At first, on leaving the glacier, the march lay over rocks, but presently a couloir of considerable length appeared, more to the right. This was followed to its summit, and after a little more rock-climbing they gained the arête leading from the Verte towards the Aiguille du Moine. Over this was distinctly visible the Aiguille du Dru, whose summit was about on a level with the point where it was first descried. It was not possible to follow the above arête. Sometimes the party were at one side, sometimes at the other, and then again on its crest. It was not till 12.50 that the summit was gained. The top of the Aiguille Verte is somewhat of a triangular form, and the highest part is that towards the Argentière. Two flags were fixed in places where they were, one or the other, visible from the Flégère and other places.

The descent was commenced about 2 o'clock, and the

Couvercle gained at 9.45 p.m.; the Montanvert was reached about 2.30 a.m., and Chamounix at 5.20 a.m. on the morning of Wednesday. The ascent was over rocks and arêtes, which could not be called easy, though there was no one place that presented any special difficulty. The weather was calm and clear during the whole expedition.<sup>5</sup>

CHARLES HUDSON.

These, so far as I knew when I planned this paper, were the only literary remains of the greatest mountaineer among the early members of the Alpine Club. I learn, however, that certain Journals are still in existence in the possession of Mrs. Charles Hudson, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the Club may be allowed to print in its JOURNAL some extracts from them, as they are certain to afford a most invaluable aspect of mountaineering in its robust youth, and to give us at the same time some extremely interesting information as to the expeditions of the writer.<sup>6</sup>

We can well afford to forgo some of the modern 'new' climbs in exchange for accounts of expeditions which, if technically easier, were, in view of the incomparably harder general conditions, of far greater merit.

I have said that Hudson was well acquainted with Mont Blanc, and by presumption was the real author of the successful attempt on the Bosses arête.

He apparently spent the winter of 1852-3 in Geneva and must have been *tolerably* hard, for we find him 'bivouacking on the snows in the winter of 1852 and the spring of 1853' ('Hudson and Kennedy,' i. 24), in January 1853 ascending the Dôle ('Hudson and Kennedy,' ii. p. 90), and in February 1853 sleeping comfortably [in a sleeping-sack] between the Col d'Arterre [Anterne] and the Brévent, although at a

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<sup>5</sup> This ascent is fully described in the paper by the late T. S. Kennedy in *A.J.* iii. 68 *seq.*

<sup>6</sup> One night in the winter of 1900, during the South African War, we were sitting round the bivouac fire when the conversation turned on mountains, as we were just leaving the Free State flats for more mountainous country. The regimental surgeon turned quietly to me and said 'You have heard of the Matterhorn and the accident on its first ascent? Well, I am the only son of Charles Hudson. I was a child at the time.' My friend, an M.D. and F.R.C.S., has again given up his private practice to serve his country at one of the Aldershot hospitals.

height of 7000 ft. and with a temperature of 13° below zero of Fahrenheit.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> I print here for the completeness of record a letter from Professor P. Chaix, of Geneva, which appeared in *The Times* of August 1, 1865. On several mountaineering points the Professor is obviously misinformed, but running through the somewhat quaint narrative one is always conscious of the passionate enthusiasm which filled Hudson, that intense feeling on which this Club has been built up, and without which it must become even as dead bones.

*To the Editor of 'The Times.'*

SIR,—The sad occurrences of which the neighbourhood of Zermatt has lately been the theatre have drawn the attention of your country to the secluded valley of the Alps. The interest which England takes in the fate of some of her bold children will be an excuse for my intruding on your valuable time. The most conspicuous of the victims in the descent from Mont Cervin, Mr. Charles Hudson, was of so modest a nature that few in his own country are, perhaps, aware of the degree to which he carried perseverance, courage, stoicism, and boldness, in the absence, it is true, of any scientific view to guide his exertions.

My past life, partly spent in topographical labours over a part of the Alps of Savoy, procured for me the honour of becoming very often an informer, perhaps an adviser, of some of Mr. Hudson's earliest exertions. He soon distanced me in all that requires boldness, strength, agility, difficulties overcome. He for a time limited his exertions to reaching all the summits, passes, &c., of our Alps in half the time required by common tourists. Then the same trips were repeated and with the same success over the snows in the depth of winter. He was only training himself for an undertaking not mentioned by him. As he once passed the Col d'Anterne, which requires nine hours of easy walking, I inquired why he had left Sixt so late as 3 in the afternoon in the middle of winter; he answered that it was in order to be compelled to spend the night in the snow, as it was, indeed, the case. Being overtaken by darkness on his descent to Servoz, Mr. Hudson lowered himself through the shattered roofs into an abandoned chalet half buried in the snow, where he spent the night, sustaining himself with a scanty piece of bread and indifferent cheese, the only provisions he had been willing to provide himself with. [This is probably the episode mentioned above.]

Mr. Hudson's distinguished and polite manners procured him admission to all the fashionable houses of our city. He very often retired late in the night from routs and dancing parties. Instead of finding rest in his bed, he opened his

In March 1853 ('Hudson and Kennedy,' ii. 44 seq.) we find 'a small party of us' going from Geneva to St. Gervais expressly

window, thrust his heated limbs into a mere clothbag under his window, and slept soundly, exposed to the piercing cold of a winter night. He was training himself.

His next stage was to leave Geneva for the hamlet of Bionnassay, where he spent a few months exposed to the hardships of winter in a cottage of Savoy, 4362 feet above the level of the sea. His purpose was to observe the degree of practicability of reaching the summit of Mont Blanc in winter and by a new path.

He so far succeeded as to reach the Dôme du Gouté, but was compelled to desist by his guide. [The point reached was just under the summit of the Aiguille, not the Dôme.]

A number of years passed without my seeing Mr. Hudson. When I had again the pleasure of his visit, he would have had much to say had he been less modest. He had volunteered his religious services in the army before Sebastopol. [The terrible winter was 1854-5. Peace was signed in February 1856. It would appear that Hudson went out for the second winter and made his journey to Ararat after the war.] After the end of the siege he left the army for a trip across Armenia, and went to the Mount Ararat. He had next, in company with Mr. Kennedy and other well-known companions, reached the summit of Mont Blanc, by the new path from Courmayeur and the Col du Géant, with great hardship at the descent. [This is not correct. Hudson's party attempted this route, but, as stated on p. 12, only reached the plateau now crossed by all Midi route parties just below the summit of the Mont Blanc du Tacul, one of the party proceeding in a few minutes to its actual summit. Mr. Ramsay, now Sir James Ramsay Bt. of Bamff, had opened the 'Midi' route a few days earlier. See footnote, p. 12. The Professor was probably not sufficiently acquainted with Mont Blanc to distinguish between the various routes, and mixed up the completed ascent by the Dôme-Grand Plateau and Mur de la Côte made later in the same year by the Hudson party, see p. 12.]

Of all that nothing: he merely said to me in an earnest manner, 'It is my conviction that the summit of Mount Ararat might be reached from the south.' That phrase gave an insight into the thoughts that absorbed the life of our friend. General (then Colonel) Chodzko and Mr. Parrot had ascended the Ararat from the north.

He was, a few days before his last attempt, at my house here, in company with young and unfortunate Mr. Haddo, and, as usual, did not impart to me a project which I would vainly have advised them to relinquish.

to try an ascent of Mont Blanc from there. 'During the month of March we made repeated attempts to gain the foot of the Aiguille [du Gôûter], but were in every instance driven back by the unsettled state of the weather.' Rendered the more determined by these rebuffs, Hudson, with the chamois hunter Mollard, left the hotel at St. Gervais at 10 P.M. on March 30, picked up Cuidet and a third chamois hunter at Bionnassay and 'shortly after sunrise' were so near [to the Aiguille du Gôûter] 'that a quarter of an hour's further march over tolerably level snow brought us to its foot.'

His companions refused to go any further. 'I turned about once more and began the ascent. The wind was blowing in slight gusts. . . . My progress was watched by the three chamois hunters . . . whose persons, now reduced to specks by the intervening distance, were occasionally hid from view by the clouds driven before the wind. . . . Although no halt had occurred, still an hour and a half had elapsed before I found myself within ten or fifteen minutes of the summit of the Aiguille. From this position the eye could easily and distinctly trace a route over and amongst the rocks which composed the remainder of the ascent; my present object, therefore, was gained, for it was now certain that no portion of the Aiguille du Gôûté offered an insuperable barrier to him who would climb Mont Blanc. . . . I prepared to descend; but so rough and broken was the course that an hour and a half had elapsed before the party was reunited. . . . During the following month of April we twice arrived at a similar elevation on the Aiguille, and on one of these occasions the weather was beautiful. . . . All this was, however, insufficient at the time to deter my two guide-companions from refusing to advance.

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Whatever may have been the nature of the ideas that prompted him since he had found himself in the presence of the Alpine Giants, the admirable courage he displayed in his numerous attempts, his self-possession and modesty, will alone be remembered. The imposing beauties of Monte Rosa and of the Cervin will henceforth call to the mind of every traveller the horrors of that first ascent. Is not a friend to be excused if he thinks how he might preserve as a relic the last shake of hands of the victims?

Believe me, Sir, your obedient servant,

Professor P. CHAIX,

Corresponding Member of the Royal  
Geographical Society.

Geneva, La Pommière, July 26.

. . . After these repeated attempts it was with no small degree of satisfaction that I now found myself [in 1855] in company with a few tried Englishmen once more about to scale the sides of my old friend the Aiguille.'

This, then, was the *raison d'être* of the first great English guideless party.

Their first attempt was to reach the summit of Mont Blanc from Courmayeur *via* the Col du Géant by the now-called 'Midi' route.<sup>8</sup> In this they were defeated by very bad weather, after sleeping in a tent on the snow above the Rognon in the Vallée Blanche and reaching next day the Mont Blanc du Tacul. Immediately removing their base to St. Gervais, they succeeded in reaching the summit of Mont Blanc by the Aiguille and Dôme du Goûter, the Grand Plateau, and the Mur de la Côte.

We are not here concerned with the particulars of these expeditions, which are given in full in the famous classic, except in so far as they throw light on the successful attempt in 1859 on the Bosses ridge.

Turning to 'Hudson and Kennedy,' i. p. 44, we read: 'Hudson . . . had had a strong desire to try this [the Bosses] ridge . . . With regard to the practicability of this route there exists a diversity of opinion. Those who live at St. Gervais . . . say it is quite impossible to mount Mont Blanc this way on account of a snowy or icy mound which rises abruptly midway. We

<sup>8</sup> This route had been opened a few days previously (on July 31, 1855) by Mr., now Sir J. H. Ramsay Bt. of Bamff, with three Courmayeur guides. They were actually well on the way up the Calotte when his guides refused to go any further, alleging the lateness of the hour (2 P.M.). Eight years later MM. Maquelin and Briquet, of Geneva, with Courmayeur guides, including some of those who accompanied Mr. Ramsay, followed the same route, but were defeated by bad weather close to the summit. Accordingly, the 'first complete ascent,' by a somewhat hypercritical technicality, since Mr. Ramsay's party covered the whole of the only new part, viz. from the Col du Géant *via* the Col du Midi to the Col de la Brenva, is credited to a later party which covered not a single step of new ground. As well might the first ascent of the Ortler by the Marl Grat not be credited to Schmitt, Friedmann, and v. Kraft, inasmuch as they, upon reaching the junction of the arêtes, declined to follow the well-trodden road to the summit, satisfied with having successfully overcome the only new portion! Sir James's exceedingly interesting account of his expedition, written at the time, appeared in the 1914 ALPINE JOURNAL, and shows once more that the chief difficulties of these active young Englishmen, Scots, and Irishmen were their guide-companions.

are ignorant of the *general* idea at Chamounix with regard to the difficulties presented by this mound or "Bosse du Dromadaire," as it is called; but Victor Tairraz, one of the most enterprising and attentive of that staff of guides, stated that he had frequently regarded the Bosse from the Grand Plateau and he thought it might probably not be an insuperable obstacle. All our party, on the present occasion [1855], examined the whole arête very attentively, and especially paid attention to the Bosse du Dromadaire, and our unanimous strong conviction was that there was nothing apparently to stop active determined mountaineers. . . .

'We did not, however, try the "Dromedary's Hump" on this occasion; for the N. wind was very strong and cold, and we should have been exposed to its chilling influences for more than two hours, had we climbed this precipitous and completely exposed ridge of snow. . . . [From the summit] 'C. Smyth and Hudson' went forward in a westerly direction, until they gained the other extremity of the ridge. The Bosse du Dromadaire lay at their feet, and as the eye hastily surveyed it, and those parts of the arête which were visible from this point of observation, they could detect nothing to prevent the ascent of Mont Blanc being made by this route' (p. 62).

We get some interesting sidelights on another attempt by Hudson on the Bosses arête, as well as on the high position already accorded to him at that time by other mountaineers, from E. T. Coleman's 'Scenes from the Snow-Fields,' a book splendidly illustrated with reproductions from his own paintings,

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\* These two seem to have been generally the leaders. Mr. A. L. Mumm's valuable records of the A.C. tell us that J. Grenville Smyth was born June 1, 1825; Christopher Smyth January 17, 1827. Hudson, Ainslie, and Kennedy were born in 1828, 1820, and 1817 respectively. They were thus all in the fullest strength of manhood. The Smyths with their brother had ascended the Ostspitze in 1854, and with Hudson, Birkbeck, and Stevenson, in 1855, the Dufourspitze. *Hudson and Kennedy*, ii. p. 72, says G. and C. Smyth and Hudson carried *haches*, Ainslie and Kennedy ashpoles, and we know from frequent contexts that Hudson was well able to use an axe.

The dates of their deaths are, according to the same authority, Grenville Smyth, March 15, 1907; Christopher Smyth, December 28, 1900; Hudson, July 14, 1865; Charles Ainslie, May 27, 1863; E. S. Kennedy, March 1, 1898 (see 'In Memoriam' by C. E. M. in *A.J.* xix. 152 *seq.*).

published in 1859. Coleman was an original member of the 'A.C.' and a member of the Committee. He was born in 1823 or 1824, and died May 24, 1892. He exhibited several times at the Royal Academy, and his mountain pictures are very interesting studies. One of them, presented by the artist, hangs in the Alpine Club. In 1855-8 he made many expeditions in the Mont Blanc group for his great book, and ascended Mont Blanc itself in 1855 and 1856. He also travelled in British Columbia, of which journeys the 'A.J.' v. and vi. furnish particulars.

Turning to page 13, we read: 'The question of the practicability of this arête has been agitated of late years . . . . Mollard, the St. Gervais guide, informs me that his uncle and two others, of the name of Jacquet,\*\* succeeded in effecting the passage [of the Bosses arête] and reaching the Calotte some thirty years ago [about 1828] on two occasions. On the first they were unable to gain the summit from want of time; on the second occasion they were accompanied by a Prussian, who became so exhausted that he was unable to go further, and informed his guides, who were naturally desirous of gaining the summit, that if they did not at once return with him he would not pay them; the consequence was that they did not venture any further, though they had got over the worst part of the journey. I have made three attempts to effect the passage of this arête, but without success, owing in the first two instances to bad weather, and in the third to an unfortunate accident.'

On page 23 he continues: 'Desirous of surveying the Italian side of the mountain, I started one morning in the month of August last year [1857], purposing on my way to stop at St. Gervais to make some inquiries, with a view to making an ascent on that side of the mountain in the course of the season . . . . On making inquiries I found that the Rev. C. Hudson . . . was shortly expected, with the intention also of trying to gain the summit of the great mountain by the Bossu de Dromadaire [sic] before mentioned.

'A friend of Mr. Hudson's was already there, waiting his arrival. The proposal was made that we should unite our forces, to which I acceded. Mr. Hudson arrived in the course

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\*\* These Jacquets were probably relatives of Jean Baptiste and Guillaume Jacquet *dit le Malin*, who with Dr. Paccard on September 9-10, 1784, were the first explorers of the Aig. du Gôûter. route (Dübi's *Paccard*, pp. 29-30 and 261).

of two or three days, accompanied by his friend Mr. George Joad and Mr. Hubert Smith. . . . It was agreed to ascend without guides, the direction being confided to Mr. Hudson. . . . A St. Gervais guide named Mollard, and several porters, were engaged to carry our provisions and other needful accompaniments up to the cabin which had just been built on the top of the Aiguille du Gôuté.<sup>10</sup>

This attempt unfortunately failed through bad weather overtaking the party while on the face of the Aiguille du Gôûter, but Hudson's part is shown by the following quotations: 'Mr. Hudson was occupied in bringing up the rear, assisting the stragglers and passing them round with the rope. . . . The couloir was a mass of ice. Mr. Hudson went first with a rope round his waist and cut steps across, retaining the rope when he got on the other side, so as to form a kind of handrail and facilitate our passage across.'

When the storm broke, compelling the instant retreat of the party, we read: "'Descendez,'" said Mollard, "'descendez très vite. C'est très dangereux . . . sauvez-vous.'" 'Mr. Hudson meanwhile stood calm and collected.'

Hudson and his friends then left, 'having engagements at Zermatt.' Some day we may hope to learn when he first began to pay attention to the fateful Matterhorn.

There appears to be no other published record of any further attempt by Hudson on the Bosses route until he finally conquered it in 1859.

It would seem, therefore, that already in 1855 Hudson was fully persuaded by close observation that the Bosses route was perfectly feasible, and its successful ascent in 1859 ought, I think, to be ascribed entirely to his initiative. It is one of the instances that force upon me the conclusion that he, as a mountaineer, must, for that period, be classed entirely by himself. I shall support this later by another even more notable instance.

I am well aware that M. Louis Kurz, in his admirable 'Guide

<sup>10</sup> From this it would appear that the cabane on the Aiguille du Gôûter was *completed* in the early summer of 1857, and not, as stated in 'Annals,' in 1856, or by other authorities in 1858. Coleman's book does not state specifically the year of any of his journeys, but was published in 1859 and must have been written in 1858 to allow time for the completion of the plates, &c., so that when he refers to 'last year' (p. 23) he must mean 1857. He speaks elsewhere specifically of 1856, so that cannot well have been 'last year.'

de la Chaîne du Mont Blanc,' 2nd edit. 1914, page 205, states that 'la route des Bosses a été découverte vers 1840 par le guide Marie Couttet<sup>11</sup> (dit Moutelet)'; but, after a careful study of the authorities whom he quotes, I have not been able to find any sufficient warranty for this definite statement.

M. Durier, in 'Le Mont Blanc,' 4th edit., 293-4 certainly states that old Marie Couttet (dit Moutelet), after vainly importuning travellers to accompany him by the new route which he claimed to have discovered, finally, in despair, attached himself to a party making the ascent by the ordinary corridor route. Failing once more to induce them to follow him and feeling old age creeping on apace, he quitted them on the Grand Plateau, and when their caravan had attained the top of the Mur de la Côte they were astounded to see a man descending from the summit of Mont Blanc and coming straight to meet them. It was Marie Couttet, aged eighty-four years, who had presumably passed along the Bosses arête.

Durier gives no authority for this statement, nor does he mention the date, but on turning to that very amusing book 'Les Fastes du Mont Blanc' (1876), chapter ix., we find a reprint of the account of the ascent of MM. Charles Martins, Bravais, and Lepilleur in 1844. Their caravan consisted of three guides, thirty-five porters, and themselves!

When making up their loads preparatory to leaving the Grands Mulets for the ascent, 'I perceived<sup>12</sup> all at once an old man, unknown to us, who was slowly climbing the slope which leads to the Petit Plateau. . . He mounted slowly, but with the equal and measured pace which denotes a practised mountaineer. This old man was Marie Couttet, aged eighty years, who in his youth had served as guide to De Saussure.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> M. de Catelin ('Stéphen d'Arve'), in his *Fastes du Mont Blanc*, devotes a very entertaining chapter (xxxvii.) to the history of this original son of the mountains.

<sup>12</sup> Literally translated from the French, *Les Fastes*, pp. 109-110.

<sup>13</sup> This is contradicted by Durier, *Le Mont Blanc*, 291, footnote 1, who states that the Marie Couttet of De Saussure was then dead. This is doubtless correct, as Sherwill, after his ascent of Mont Blanc in August 1825, says:

'We had a long conversation with the father [Marie Couttet] of our guide [Joseph-Marie Couttet], who is 80 years of age, very stout and hearty' (*Ascent of Mont Blanc*, p. 24). By 1844 therefore the old gentleman would have been nearly one hundred, and moreover Moutelet is described as anything but 'very stout' at eighty!

Marie Couttet left a son, Joseph-Marie Couttet, born October 9,

. . . At break of day he started ahead to break the trail  
 . . . he still followed the caravan as far as the Grand

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1792, the same who nearly perished in the Hamel accident in 1820 and whose account of this accident is reprinted in *Les Fastes du Mont Blanc*, chapter v. This Joseph-Marie was for many years the leading Mont Blanc guide. A reference to Mr. Montagnier's careful summary—a perfect mine of information—of the ascents from 1786 to 1853, *A.J.* xxv. 608–640, shows him as taking part in two ascents, Nos. 9 and 10, in 1819; one, No. 11, in 1822; and one, No. 13, in 1825. Warned, however, by his experiences, Couttet, in 1827, with Fellowes and Hawes, struck out the present Corridor-Mur de la Côte route, which gave the *coup de grâce* to the Ancien Passage. Couttet appears further in Mr. Montagnier's summary as the leader of the ascents No. 15 in 1827 (Auldjo, recorded in the charmingly illustrated book, *Narrative of an Ascent to the Summit of Mont Blanc*, London, 1828), No. 16 in 1830, No. 17 in 1834, No. 22 (Mlle. d'Angeville) in 1838, Nos. 26 and 27 in 1843, No. 31 in 1846, No. 34 in 1850.

In addition to the thirteen complete ascents, he took part in five partial ascents, including that of Dr. Hamel in 1820. In his *Itinéraire du Mont Blanc*, 1851, he calls himself 'Capitaine du Mont Blanc.'

If Marie Couttet, dit Moutelet, is, however, identical with the Marie Couttet the 'chamoiseur' of Bourrit, and his age would just allow of this, then of course he may have seen enough of the Bosses route in 1784 to persuade him that it must go, and this would account for his insistence. Durier must, however, be presumed to have known the various ganglions of the Couttet family.

Strange to say, the only time the name Marie Couttet appears in the Records of Mont Blanc is as one of De Saussure's guides on the famous ascent of 1787. He seems nevertheless to have been well known as a guide, for in 1800 he is found crossing the Théodule with Mr. George Cade, one of the first Englishmen to visit Zermatt (see *A.J.* vii. 431–6 and Whymper's *Guide to Zermatt*, 15th edit. p. 13 *seq.*). If this is not Moutelet, as Durier states, then, so far as is recorded, Marie Couttet (dit Moutelet) never ascended the Mont Blanc at all. The whole business is so peculiar that at my instance, the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Oughton, who is fast imbibing a true Alpine enthusiasm, carefully compared Mr. Montagnier's Records with the authorities quoted, but failed to find any mention of a Marie Couttet's having made any ascent except as stated. The only differences found in these valuable Records were that according to Albert Smith (1st edit. p. 155) there were not *two* Auguste Devouassoux with him, but *two* Jean Tairraz, and according to Payot's *Guide-Itinéraire* Dr. Ed. Ordinaire's party was accompanied by a certain Edouard Tairraz, who, however, may have been the present or future landlord of the Hôtel de Londres and not a guide. Some amusing, if very frank, remarks *in re* this

Plateau, notwithstanding his 80 years. He re-descended, not tired, he said, but through fear of not being paid, as he had not been made to carry anything. . . . Moutelet only survived this last journey three or four years; he died in 1847, at the age of eighty-four years.'

It will be seen that there is nothing here to warrant the claim made on behalf of Marie Couttet.

Dr. Güssfeldt in 'Der Mont Blanc' (p. 198) states that on August 18, 1892, he talked the matter over with Sylvain Couttet, a grand-nephew of old Marie, and who had known the old man. 'I let him tell me what he knew, and his account agreed almost completely with Durier's.'

It must be remembered, however, that at the time of this conversation the Bosses was an established, conventional route, known to offer no difficulty to render old Marie's claim very improbable. Sylvain's memory may have been easily biassed by this fact. It is also obvious that in our own experience our knowledge of our grand-uncle's doings fifty years before is usually somewhat vague!

The late Charles Edward Mathews, in his interesting 'The Annals of Mont Blanc' (1898), p. 116, goes further<sup>14</sup> than the French original account just quoted, and states that Marie Couttet, 'then eighty years of age, . . . offered to conduct them to the summit by a new route. This route was no other than the ridge of the Bosses du Dromadaire so long given up as impracticable. The other guides, however, preferred the ordinary way. On reaching the Petit Plateau, Marie Couttet left them, declining their offer of food and wine.'

A great authority, upon whose works the adventurer, bold enough to approach the Maelström of Alpine history or criticism, is well advised to keep a watchful, indeed an extremely watchful, eye, in his well-known edition of 'The Western Alps,' London, 1898, interpolates the statement 'that Mr. Hudson's party of 1859 had been anticipated twenty years before by a Chamonix man, eighty-four years of age, Marie Couttet,

landlord appear in Hinchliff's account of his ascent of Mont Blanc in 1857.

Mr. Oughton has also copied for me several old letters, and indeed discovered some of them. I take this opportunity to thank him again.

<sup>14</sup> Relying on 'Les Ascensions célèbres' by Zurcher et Margollé, Paris, 1891, but I do not see that these authors possessed any information save that given by Durier and Stéphen d'Arve.

surnamed Moutelet, who attained the summit alone and was met descending by another party on the Mur de la Côte.' No authority is given for this statement, which is presumably based on Durier.

It may be that the same author subsequently felt none too sure of this remarkable performance, since, in his 'The Alps in Nature and History' (n.d., preface dated April 1908), an interesting book of great learning, to which the student of Alpine matters is constantly referring, he states: 'It was not till 1859 that a party [Hudson and Melchior] ventured to push from the Grand Plateau over the Bosses du Dromadaire to the summit.'

The same author, in his edition of Forbes's 'Travels through the Alps,' London, 1900, to which his footnotes form a most valuable and interesting adjunct, is even more definite, stating, p. 551: 'It [the Bosses ridge] was first *ascended* only in 1859 by Mr. Hudson's party, while it was not first *descended* until 1869 by the present editor.'

It is obvious from the quotation given on p. 13 that Hudson himself had no suspicion of any earlier ascent of the Bosses arête, nor was Victor Tairraz, who must have been acquainted with Chamonix tradition of the time (1855), a believer in any previous ascent by that route. Again, in 1859 the three Chamonix guides, who accompanied Hudson and his companions on their successful attempt by that ridge, were equally unconvinced of any previous ascent by that route, since they were careful to stipulate for full payment in any case. Hudson, in his letter of 1859 printed above, also mentions that 'it is only within the last year or two that any of the Chamounix or St. Gervais guides would admit its practicability.'

I fear old Marie Couttet's (dit Moutelet) claims cannot be seriously entertained, gallant old man as he doubtless was.<sup>15</sup>

I think I have sufficiently indicated Hudson's share in the Bosses route. We may well leave it here.

His paper in 'P.P.G.' II. is mainly concerned with the accident in 1861 to young Birkbeck, who was in his charge. The party,

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<sup>15</sup> In the 'Savoyard de Paris' of August 2, 1913 (not August 19 as stated in 'Kurz'), there is an article signed 'Georges Myrtil' with the title 'Un Don Quichotte ignoré: le guide Marie Couttet, dit Moutelet' written with much *entrain*, but it is based entirely on Durier and Catelin and contains nothing new.

which included Leslie Stephen, Tuckett, and Hudson himself, with the guides Melchior Anderegg, Bennen, and Peter Perrn, had reached the Col de Miage, and were eating, when young Birkbeck strolled away and fell right down the French slopes nearly 1800 feet vertically. He eventually made a miraculous recovery, Hudson having nursed him with great devotion.

The object of ascending the Col de Miage was 'to try if there were a passage at the back of the Aiguille de Bionnassay by which Mont Blanc could be ascended.' Strange as this project may seem to us, to whom accurate maps are available, it remained a problem for quite a long time—until solved in 1864 by Adams-Reilly and Birkbeck, led by Michel Croz, M. C. Payot and Marc Tairraz ('A.J.' i. 375), who traversed right across the E. face of the Aiguille to gain the Col de Bionnassay, which, by the way, has never yet been crossed.

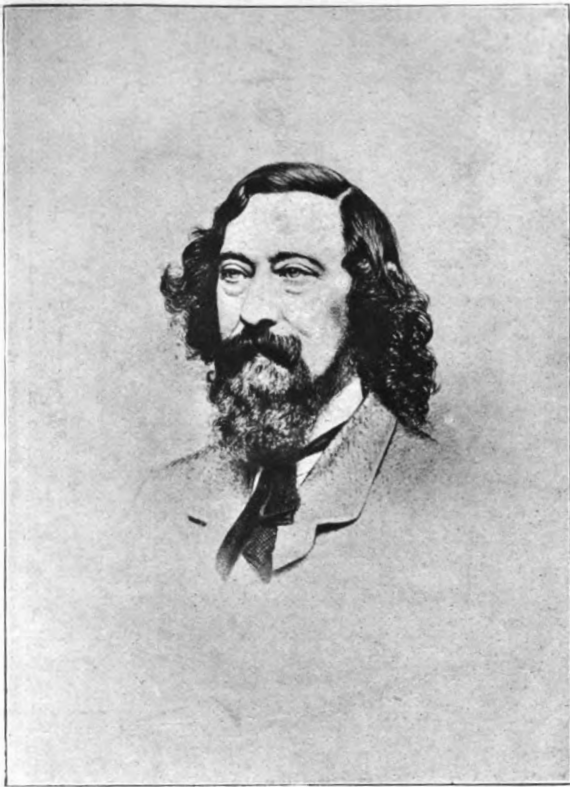
The direct route to the summit of Mont Blanc by the arêtes of the Aiguille de Bionnassay was not completed until 1898.

The annexed photograph from the Mont Joli will make the matter clear. (See also p. 35.)

Between 1862 and 1865 we know, at present, practically nothing of Hudson's Alpine doings. We next find him once more at Chamonix early in July 1865 joining forces with T. S. Kennedy. As stated in the extract on page 7, they ascended the Aiguille Verte and the Mont Blanc. Kennedy's article in 'A.J.' iii. 68 *seq.* furnishes interesting details of these expeditions and incidentally of Croz, whom he terms 'one of the greatest guides who ever trod a mountain top,' who performed during the day 'the most daring feat of mountaineering I ever saw.'

Kennedy's testimony to Hudson's powers is fully as significant. 'We left the top [of the Verte] about 3 o'clock, all [3 guides and 3 Herren] tied to one long rope, a mode of proceeding which was certainly not the best one . . . Croz led the way down to the most difficult passage we had to encounter, and Hudson was last of all, just behind me . . . Hudson, who for a great portion of the time was the last in the line, invariably refused all aid from me after I had securely placed myself. His object was, undoubtedly, to render himself as independent and self-reliant as possible, and in this he had succeeded to a greater extent than I have ever seen in any other Englishman, and he was almost as great as a guide.'

The tireless travellers got back to the Montanvert at 2 A.M. ;



**JOHN BIRKBECK I.**  
1817—1890.



**JOHN BIRKBECK II.**  
1842—1892.



*Photo Ed. Chabert.*

WESTERN END OF THE MONT BLANC RANGE.

From Mont Joli.

went down to Chamonix the same night ; at 4 P.M. left for the Pierre Pointue, and next day, with Hadow<sup>16</sup> and the Rev. Joseph M'Cormick, an old Cambridge "double blue," subsequently, and till his death lately, rector of St. James's, Piccadilly, and for many years chaplain in the summer at Grindelwald—a great, good man—ascended the Mont Blanc.

They were men in those days !

There is the testimony to Hudson of another great amateur of his day. Leslie Stephen, than whom no one was more qualified to judge ('A.J.' xv. 279), speaks of 'Hudson who was I think the strongest and most active mountaineer I ever met.'

We now come to the most momentous episode of Hudson's Alpine career—his connexion with the Matterhorn. It is just fifty years since the accident happened, and I propose to review in detail the whole occurrence.

At that time, it must be remembered, few details were known of the various attempts to ascend the great mountain. 'Scrambles' did not appear until 1871. They have since been well summarised in chapter ii. of Whymper's 'Guide to Zermatt'; indeed only the Italian side had been seriously

<sup>16</sup> It has been often stated that Hadow was Hudson's pupil and in his charge. The following letter appeared in *The Times* of July 26, 1865 :—

'Sir,—With reference to the late fatal accident on the Matterhorn, allow me to state that there is no truth in the report, so generally believed in English circles at home, and on the Continent, that the Rev. Mr. Hudson was the private tutor of Mr. Hadow and Lord F. Douglas, and in that capacity was indiscreet enough to suffer his young pupils to accompany him in this perilous enterprise. Being at the moment in the immediate neighbourhood, and acquainted with all the particulars, I can testify that neither of the victims of the sad catastrophe just referred to was connected with Mr. Hudson by any other ties at the time of the ascent of the Matterhorn than those of ordinary travelling companionship. Whatever may be thought of the prudence or imprudence of the act by which his own as well as so many valuable lives were sacrificed, I feel it is only right that Mr. Hudson's share in the responsibility should not be unduly aggravated, and while seeking to effect this object from regard to the memory of an esteemed brother clergyman, a sagacious tutor, and an old college friend, I beg the favour of your kind sympathy and powerful assistance, and remain,

'Sir, your obedient, humble servant,

'J. W. CHARLTON.

'Royal Hotel, Chamonix, July 21.'

attempted. By general consent the stupendous E. face was still voted unapproachable, and men like Almer and Melchior—although at that time of considerable experience—were very averse to attempt it. The spell of its apparent inaccessibility lay heavy on guides and travellers alike.

The E. face, so far as recorded, remained absolutely untouched until 1860 when, with a boldness unparalleled in the whole history of mountaineering, it was assailed, not, as might be expected, by well-known amateurs with the boldest guides of the day, but by three young Englishmen—*without guides*. We may well be intensely proud of our young countrymen.

They were Charles Stuart Parker, born 1829, educated at Eton and Oxford, subsequently an M.P. and P.C., died 1910; Samuel Sandbach Parker, born 1837, educated at Eton, subsequently a member of the Liverpool Dock Board and J.P. for Lancashire, died 1905; Alfred Traill Parker, born 1837, educated at Harrow, died 1900.

The two younger brothers, who were the leaders, were elected to the A.C. in 1860 on the remarkable qualification of the four expeditions *without guides* described in 'A.J.' xxx. 25 seq.

Their attempts on the E. face in 1860 and 1861 are described by Mr. Whymper in 'Scrambles,' 5th edition, pp. 76-7.

These expeditions make a great impression on me. I wondered what manner of men were these, so little daunted by 'the Eastern face, facing Zermatt, . . . one smooth, inaccessible cliff, from summit to base,' on which 'men despaired of finding anything to grasp' ('Scrambles,' p. 273). By great good fortune I was able to publish in 'A.J.' xxx. letters piously preserved by the family, covering many of their expeditions.

There is also a very significant letter from Alfred to Charles, dated May 10, 1860: 'You must understand once for all that the main object of our expedition is the Matterhorn—none of your Buets and Dents for us, but a steady prow round the base of the M. until we "see and feel our way" to the top.' I quoted ('A.J.' xxx. 184) a remarkable instance of the prescience of this young Englishman in first indicating a possible route by the Z'Mutt arête.

All we know of them goes to show that they were worthy disciples of the School, of which Charles Hudson was then almost the sole great master and exponent, *that already at that period grasped instinctively the axiom upon which the modern evolution of rock-climbing is chiefly based, viz. that it is*



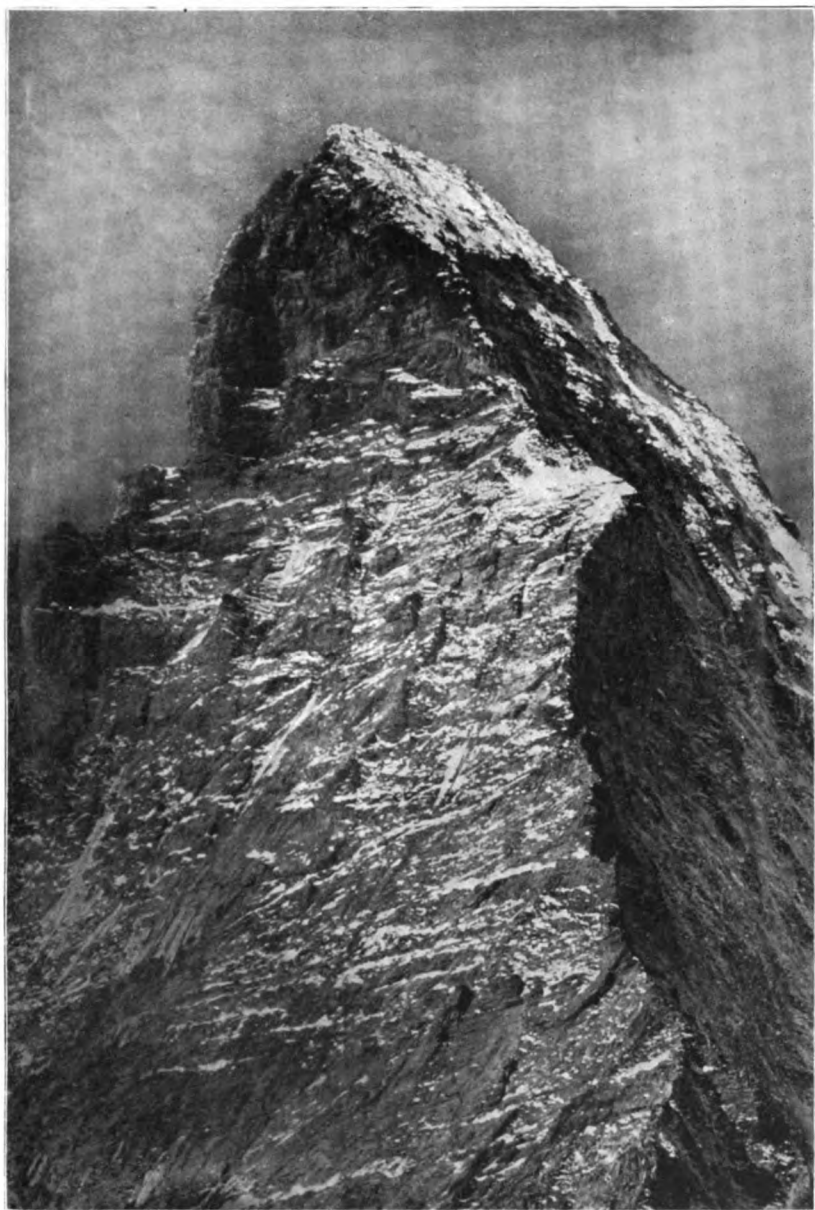
SAMUEL SANDBACH PARKER,  
about 1857. about 1904.



CHARLES STUART PARKER,  
about 1868.



ALFRED TRAILL PARKER,  
about 1855. 1899.



"The eastern face, fronting Zermatt, seemed one smooth, inaccessible cliff from summit to base."

*Telephoto by Dr. C. Atkin Swan from the Riffelalp.*



THE OLD AND THE NEW PARISH CHURCHES AT ZERMATT.

*futile to express an opinion as to the practicability of rocks except at close quarters. At that period even good guides were content to come to a decision upon distant inspection. It was not until men grasped the doctrine, then foreshadowed for the first time so far as I know, that the glamour of inaccessibility lost its sway.*

I do not remember the principle so succinctly stated in any book of that time or for long after. Whymper and his party in 1864 failed to grasp it when judging the rocks of the Brèche de la Meije, and Melchior's diplomatic answer ('Scrambles,' pp. 179 and 181, 5th edit.) gets no nearer. Croz in 1864 ('Scrambles,' p. 171), Almer in 1865 ('Scrambles,' p. 364) failed to realise it. Instances of the limitations of smaller men at much later dates abound ('A.J.' vii. 91 &c.).

So completely is this axiom now accepted that it is difficult for us to-day to realise what an immense hold upon men's minds this glamour of inaccessibility had.

The first reference to the E. face in the ALPINE JOURNAL is in vol. i. 77, published in June 1863, where T. S. Kennedy writes:—'During the summer of 1858 and 1860 I had surveyed the Matterhorn from various points . . . Thus it appeared that the only route offering a chance of success was the N. or Hörnli ridge.'

In January 1862 he made an attempt with the guides Peter Perrn and Peter Taugwalder ('Old Peter'), defeated by bad weather after very small progress.

Up to the end of 1863, Whymper, so far as can be gathered, appears to have harboured no idea of the accessibility of the E. face, and continued, with that indomitable thoroughness so eminently characteristic of him, the attacks on the S. side. His 7th<sup>17</sup> attempt on this side was made in 1863.

Whymper's brilliant campaign of 1864 was brought to an unexpected end, as described by him in 'Scrambles' (5th edit.), p. 249. The arrangement made with Adams-Reilly 'to take part in renewed attempts on the Matterhorn' (p. 221 and 'A.J.' ii. 108) consequently fell through.

His gradual conversion to the E. face is set out in a memorable chapter (xv) in 'Scrambles'—written certainly a considerable time after the ascent had actually been made and its real

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<sup>17</sup> Whymper's *Zermatt* (15th edit.), p. 44, makes the 7th attempt take place in 1863. 'Scrambles,' chapter xv., describing the 1865 journey, is headed 'My Seventh Attempt to ascend the Matterhorn.' The point is of no great moment.

character ascertained. In this chapter, p. 276, we learn that 'I invited Mr. Reilly to join in an attack upon the E. face . . . from a gradually-acquired conviction that it would afford the easiest way to the summit; and, if we had not been obliged to part, the mountain would, doubtless, have been ascended in 1864.'<sup>17\*</sup>

Whympfer's campaign of 1865 opened early with every prospect of success. He found himself on June 14 at Turtmann with Almer, Croz, and Biener—a very strong combination. During their ascent, on June 17, of the Dent Blanche, we read: 'My old enemy—the Matterhorn—seen across the basin of the Z'Muttgletscher—looked totally unassailable. "Do you think," the men asked, "that you, or anyone else, will ever get up *that* mountain?" And when . . . I stoutly answered, "Yes, but not upon that side," they burst into derisive chuckles.' The ban was on them all, save Whympfer, still.

As they came down the Z'Muttgletscher, on June 19, 'my guides readily admitted that they had been greatly deceived as to the steepness of the eastern face. . . . I gave way temporarily before their evident reluctance,' and thereupon on June 21 an attempt was made by way of the immense gully which lies S.W. of the Furgengrat.

Upon its failure Croz is stated to have been still so doubtful of the probability of a successful attack on the E. face (p. 280) that he urged Whympfer to go to the Mont Blanc district.

The Jorasses on June 24, the Col Dolent on June 26, were some consolation. Croz had to leave Whympfer on June 27. The first ascent of the Verte with Almer and Franz Biener followed on June 29, the first passage of the Col de Talèfre on July 3, the first ascent of the Ruinette on July 6.

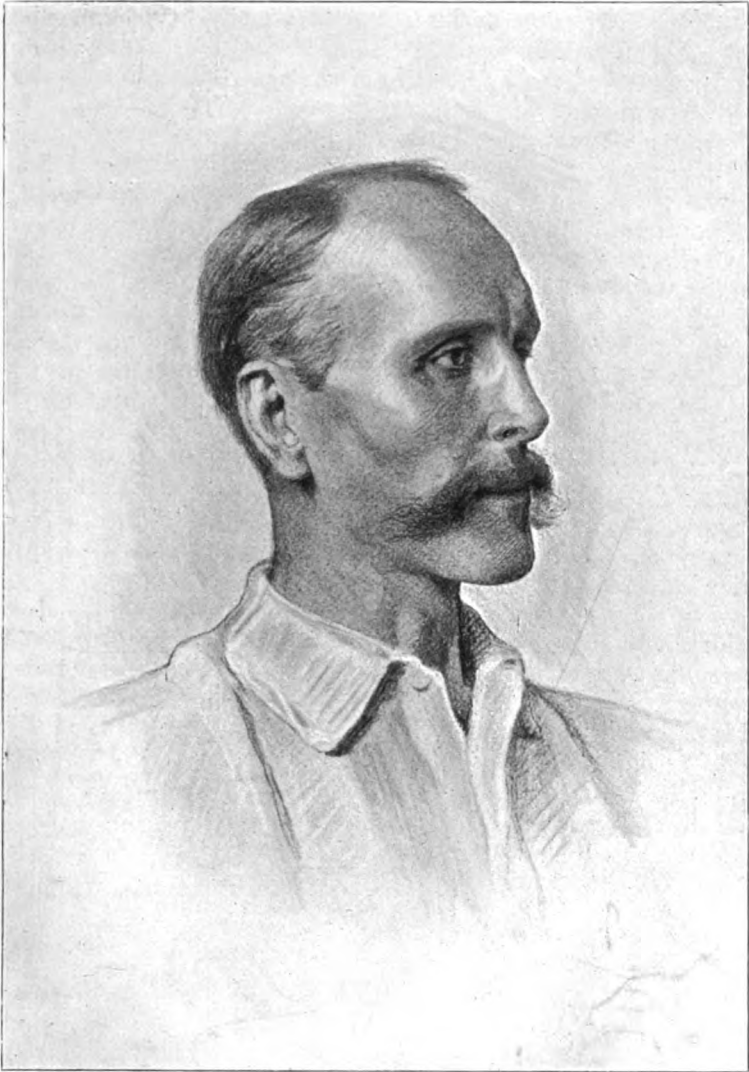
<sup>17\*</sup> Adams-Reilly—according to his notebook—with his two Chamonix men, Michel Payot and Henri Charlet, got to Zermatt at 5 P.M. on July 19. There he found Whympfer in a high fever, compelled to go home at once on account of business. Whympfer left next morning.—Then follows:

'Wednesday—July 20.

'Matterhorn covered with ice—determined to have nothing to say to it.'

This is a confirmation of their intention to have tried the mountain from the Zermatt side.

At the same time there is no certainty that Whympfer could have succeeded in inducing Croz to make the attempt in 1864 any more than he did in 1865, when, in addition, he had the services of Almer.



THOMAS STUART KENNEDY.

1841—1894.

“One of the most brilliant climbers of his generation.”

The party reached Breuil on the 7th, where<sup>18</sup> Almer and Biener, still disinclined to attempt the Matterhorn, were paid off—as Whymper found Jean-Antoine and César Carrel willing once more to try the old southern route and, that failing, to see what could be done with the E. face. Their failure to carry out this plan is recorded by Whymper on p. 367, and we accordingly find him stranded—guideless—at Breuil on July 11. At mid-day Lord Francis Douglas, fresh from his ascent of the Gabelhorn from the Zinal side,<sup>19</sup> accompanied by Peter Taugwälder, fils, turns up at Breuil.

We unfortunately do not know what Lord Francis's object was in making this journey. He brought the news that Peter

<sup>18</sup> 'During the preceding days (I exclude Sundays and other non-working days) we ascended more than 100,000 feet, and descended 98,000 feet.' (*Scrambles*, p. 365, footnote.)

<sup>19</sup> The following note by Lord F. Douglas supplements the account in *A.J.* ii. 221-3 :—

[Zinal] July 6 (1865). Lord F. Douglas. By Trift Pass from Zermatt. After two unsuccessful attempts upon the Gabelhorn from Zermatt, I came here with Peter Taugwälder to attempt it from this side. As we were coming over the Trift, and as Peter had just finished examining the Gabelhorn and had said we should get up easily from this side, we heard a noise above us and beheld a flag on the top of the Gabelhorn and three men. [Messrs. Moore and Walker with Jakob Anderegg; cf. *A.J.* ii. 133.] I do not know where they ascended from. It was not from Zermatt or Zinal. The first attempt we made from Zermatt was made by mounting the Unter Gabelhorn and thence by the arête connecting it with the Ober Gabelhorn, but after 14 hours' hard work we found it impossible to proceed. In the second we ascended to another peak of the Gabelhorn [now called Wellenkuppe] about 13,000 feet in height, but the arête connecting it with the Ober Gabelhorn was found also impracticable. This summit has no name, but why I cannot understand, as it is very nearly as high as the Gabelhorn. It lies immediately to one's right in crossing the Trift from here [Zinal]. At the very summit there is an ice-wall about 15 feet high which is very thick and overhangs, which it took us 20 minutes to cut through, and with a telescope from Zermatt the hole can be seen through which we crawled on to the summit. I should recommend the ascent of this 'mountain without a name,' as there is some very nice rock-climbing and a steep ice-slope leading to the summit and a magnificent view. Guides, Peter Inäbnit (Grindelwald), Peter Taugwälder (Zermatt). [Inäbnit appears to have left on arrival at Zinal.] 7th or 8th.—Left here to attempt the ascent of Gabelhorn.

Taugwalder, père,<sup>20</sup> 'had lately been beyond the Hörnli and had reported that he thought an ascent of the Matterhorn was possible upon that side.'

It is reasonable to assume that he, an ambitious, successful young mountaineer, had the intention, even before he met Whymper, of making an attempt on the Matterhorn.

Whymper and Douglas cross to Zermatt on July 12, seek and engage the elder Peter Taugwalder. It would appear that it was Douglas's service that he resumed,<sup>21</sup> since immediately after the accident the Taugwalders are reported as saying 'We have lost our Herr; we shall not get paid.' At Zermatt, to their surprise, they find Hudson, with a young friend, Hadow, and Croz 'come to Zermatt to attempt the ascent of the Matterhorn. . . . Mr. Hudson was . . . invited to join us, and he accepted our proposal' (p. 370).

This compact sealed the fate of the greatest English mountaineer of the day and of his two younger companions. It was the closing chapter in the life of a great guide, the equal of Jakob Anderegg in daring, of Melchior and of Almer in executive ability; of the one man who had gone far and would have gone further to redeem the Chamonix valley from the reproach, merited then and scarce removed even to-day, of having failed, with advantages unequalled in all the Alps, to produce its quota of great mountaineers.

*The death of Hudson and of Croz held up the tide of mountaineering for fully half a generation of man.*

<sup>20</sup> Peter Taugwalder, père, was in my judgment most improperly and wrongfully prejudiced by the accident that occurred a few days later. He was certainly at the time one of the boldest guides in the Alps, and probably much the best of the Zermatt men. Many references to him are to be found. He was employed by Tuckett (*P.P.G.* III. 259); he was one of the guides in Kennedy's winter attempt on the E. face in 1862, and later in the same year was the leading guide, his son, Peter, being second, when Kennedy (starting from Bricolla) got within an hour of the top of the Dent Blanche. A few days previous to the accident he had, after two attempts from the Zermatt side, made the first ascent of the Gabelhorn from Zinal. In describing this, Lord Francis writes: 'Peter Taugwalder acted admirably, and really showed himself a first-rate guide.' He was one of the very few men—indeed one might say the only guide—free of the spell of inaccessibility which the Matterhorn at that day laid on men's minds.

<sup>21</sup> He had made with Lord Francis Douglas, six days earlier, the second ascent of the Gabelhorn.



*Michel Croz*

Surely the first question that springs to one's mind is to account for this sudden change in the attitude of Croz. As late as June 21 we find him deliberately *pass* by the E. face and attempt instead the dangerous Furggen couloir with the object of gaining the E. face high up ('Scrambles,' p. 277). Nineteen days later he arrives at Zermatt with Hudson to attempt, as a matter in the ordinary course of his guide's business, the ascent by this very E. face. We can reasonably account for this change by the impress of the study, the experience, and the knowledge of his new employer. Hudson was then a man of thirty-six, of iron physique, indomitable, tireless, with twelve or thirteen years' mountaineering experience. We know that he had been certainly *once*, and probably several times, at Zermatt. We know his independence of mind—his *trained* study of new routes—his resolute skill, the fruit of long years of independent experience, and of apprenticeship to good guides.

We are justified in assuming that he had worked and studied for this day. He was the one man, of all his generation, of mature judgment formed by much independent mountaineering experience,—capable of impressing his views on his companions,—upon whom the E. face of the great mountain, however apparently inaccessible, failed to lay a spell, leaving him, with all his burning enthusiasm, ever cool and critical. Croz, with his Gallic temperament, could not fail to feel the impress of the master-mind.

Moreover, we know from Kennedy ('A.J.' ii. 68) that 'at Easter in 1865 I was visiting the Rev. C. Hudson, at Skillington, to arrange a Swiss tour, and we agreed . . . to go to Zermatt to try if we could climb the Matterhorn by its northern arête . . . This programme we could not carry out together from unforeseen circumstances.' Thus to Hudson's own observations and indomitable character were added the actual experiences of Kennedy, and, on the successful attempt itself, of Taugwalder.

*The hour of the Matterhorn had struck.*

It is not necessary to deal at length with the actual details of the expedition. So far as they can ever be known they are recounted in the memorable chapter (xxi.) of Whymper's immortal 'Scrambles.'

We have thus combined for the attempt three parties :

- (1) Hudson and Hadow with Croz.
- (2) Douglas with Taugwalder, père et fils.

(3) Whymper, 'fortuitously a member' of the expedition, as he terms himself ('Scrambles,' p. 254).

*Each of these parties, with, of course, obvious additions to the third, was quite competent to make the ascent of the Matterhorn.*

Hudson was a tried mountaineer of many years' experience, generally recognized as the best amateur of his day; of almost unequalled experience; in the full strength of manhood. Hadow was one of those active young Englishmen capable, with experienced companions, of going anywhere.

I say distinctly that Hudson and Croz were fully qualified to conduct him on the proposed expedition, and that the *sum of the powers* of the party was much above the average of half the parties that go mountain-climbing to-day.

Lord Francis Douglas had in two or three seasons added sufficient experience to the traditional enterprise and daring of his race. His guide Taugwalder was thoroughly reliable; his second man, the younger Taugwalder, far from a novice.

Whymper, then about twenty-five, had four or five magnificent seasons behind him under the best guides of the day. He had persistently attacked the great mountain from another side. He had shown, and was to show, qualities that have made his name immortal. He of all men had a *right* to join in the final attack even if it were not of his own planning.

The Matterhorn was no more difficult then than now. We can infer, from the work previously done that season, that the mountain was in that year in a very forward state; the 'going' up to the shoulder, even above it, was probably very much as in a good August when I have known the Matterhorn to be dusty! (1892.)

*Yet the three parties together formed a fatal combination.*

Which of us does not know the danger of a large party on a mountain? There is always far too much talk, with its attendant absence of close attention; there is usually, as in this case, no recognised head; indeed in the presence of his new employer and of his old and tried Monsieur of many a triumphant campaign Croz must have felt a divided allegiance.

*There was every element of danger in this fatal compact.*



*E. Whymper, photo.*

*Swan Electric Engraving Co., Ltd.*

**The gîte at which the night preceding the first ascent of the Matterhorn was spent. This photograph was taken in October, 1892, and shows a guide pointing to the letters E.W. scratched on the rock by Mr. Whymper in 1865.**

(From a photograph given by Mr. Whymper to Sir Edward Davidson, K.C.M.G., C.B., K.C., etc.)

The details of the ascent, as given by Whymper, indicate a certain *casualness*, inherent in all large parties. It is, however, when the descent commences that these elements of danger instantly combine to a fatal issue.

The great unwieldy party carried at least three ropes. ('Scrambles,' p. 370.)

- (1) '200 feet of the Manila rope.'
- (2) '150 feet of a stouter and probably stronger rope.'
- (3) '200 feet of a lighter and weaker rope. . . (stout sash-line).'

One of these ropes would in all probability fall to be carried by each guide.

It is difficult to explain how the first or second rope with which, we are distinctly told (p. 391), the four men who fell were tied only sufficed for them; for we cannot imagine Taugwalder's tying himself on with the thin rope<sup>22</sup> which must have been the one he carried—the third one being with young Taugwalder and Whymper, 'one hundred feet or more' away—if any portion of the other rope remained. Lord Francis Douglas, the man immediately in front of him, would not be likely to wind any portion of the rope round his own shoulders.

Taugwalder cannot properly be blamed for the use of this rope. Mr. Whymper, with the candour running throughout his book, is perfectly fair to him. The intention to use this rope only as a 'spare' rope had not been explained to him. The ropes were not his, or he might well be blamed for the practice, still very prevalent among guides and amateurs alike, which, not long ago, cost the life of a very brilliant mountaineer, Louis Theytaz, of paying scant attention to the age or strength of the tackle.

We next come to the order of roping for the descent. Whymper ('Scrambles,' p. 388) states that 'Hudson and I again consulted as to the best and safest arrangement. We agreed that it would be best for Croz to go first<sup>23</sup> and Hadow second; Hudson,

<sup>22</sup> A bit of this thin rope may be seen in the Zermatt Museum. It bears, possibly shrunk through time, scant resemblance to the illustration, p. 386.

<sup>23</sup> It is disconcerting to find that J. B. Croz, the elder brother, and, to some extent, teacher of Michel, was not averse to descending first on the rope, leaving his two Messieurs and 'a lad . . . as porter' to follow down as best they could. ('Ascent of the Dent Blanche,' by T. S. Kennedy, *A.J.* i. 38.) Michel also is found descending

who was almost equal to a born mountaineer in sureness of foot, wished to be third; Lord Francis Douglas was placed next, and old Peter, the strongest of the remainder, after him.' Whymper and young Taugwalder joined on shortly afterwards, tied together with the other of the stouter ropes, young Taugwalder doubtless being last man.

Mr. Whymper undoubtedly realised later the fatal error of judgment in this order, since he adds a footnote (p. 383): 'if the members of the party had been more equally efficient, Croz would have been placed last.' Few mountaineers will agree with this. On the contrary, the more unequally efficient the party the greater the reason for Croz being, when descending, in the rear, where alone he would be able to counteract a slip. Choosing the line of descent was a secondary matter.

The fatal order of roping is again the consequence of the want of coherence in the party. Had the parties been separate, then it can hardly be doubted that the order of descent of Hudson's party would have been as follows:

1. Hudson, leading down.
2. Hadow.
3. Croz, last man.

The order of the second party would in all probability have been:

1. Whymper, leading down.
2. Young Taugwalder.
3. Douglas.
4. Old Taugwalder, last man.

Had this order been adopted we should, in all probability, have not had to chronicle any accident.

For the whole party on one rope the most prudent order, in my opinion, would have been:

1. Hudson, leading down, since he had led on the way up to the shoulder and was used to going without guides.

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first on the Verte, while Hudson was last for most of the day. But the party was a very strong one, consisting of two strong guides besides Croz, of two Messieurs of the first flight—Hudson and T. S. Kennedy—and Hodgkinson, a good amateur, all on one rope. They had shown what they were worth by making the first ascent by the Moine ridge. (*A.J.* iii. 73.) The sounder practice of the Oberländerers at that date was for the best man to descend last on the rope. Cf. *A.J.* i. 43, 'The Weisshorn,' by Leslie Stephen, where Melchior comes down last.

2. Douglas.
3. Young Taugwalder.
4. Hadow.
5. Croz, who would here be not too far away to give Hudson any advice if required, while at the same time he would be in the best position to ensure the safety of the less experienced of his Messieurs.
6. Whympfer.
7. Old Taugwalder, last man.

Thus the most inexperienced man, Hadow, would have had a young guide <sup>24</sup> in front of him and the strongest guide behind him. Douglas would have had the best amateur in front of him—a man absolutely safe for himself—and a young guide behind him.

Hudson may have been lulled into false security by the long string behind him. The one point, however, in which the amateur is frequently inferior even to a moderate guide is in intuitively realising when a sudden slip is likely to occur and in resistance to the consequent shock; indeed the moderate guide is often as quick as the best in this respect, inasmuch as indifferent and incapable climbers are usually his care.

*But the real cause of the accident was not the slip made by Hadow, not the breaking of the rope, but the want of coherence in the 'fortuitously' formed party.*

A great lesson to be learned from the occurrence is to

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<sup>24</sup> Young Peter Taugwalder can scarcely have been the mere porter, since already three years previously, at nineteen years of age, he was considered quite good enough by a good judge like T. S. Kennedy to act as second man to his father 'Old' Peter on the attempt upon the Dent Blanche, and within a month after the accident we find him in the service of famous members of the A.C., making the first ascent of the Dôme route (*A.J.* ii. 133). He became, later, a well-known guide, one of the greatest authorities on the E. face of the Matterhorn. Some of his expeditions, e.g. the S.E. arête of the Disgrazia (Major Strutt's *Bernina*, i. 210), have found few if any followers, although in that expedition his share was a bit discounted by the fact that his companion was Jakob Anderegg, then at his zenith. Whatever may be said about him there is no denying that he became a mighty man on his own mountain, and at the age of twenty-two must already have been a very useful member of any party.

undertake no serious expedition with a large party. Even among good men it engenders a false sense of security and, most certainly, inattention and irresponsibility. It tends to irregularity of pace and to loss of valuable time.

The ban of the Matterhorn was broken. It was the end of the classic period, but the lessons of its conquest became, though slowly grasped, the axioms of modern mountaineering.

Two of the victors—Hudson and Croz—paid the penalty with their lives, and it only remains to examine very shortly the influence of their removal on the future of mountaineering.

Whymper's retirement was almost an equal disaster.

It is not merely with a question of technical skill, but much rather of that *esprit* or mental outlook which, allied to technical proficiency, is essential to the making of a great mountaineer, that we are mainly concerned.

Hudson with his experience and ability was the true Pioneer of the New Learning in mountaineering.

Aided by the observations of T. S. Kennedy—acute as they were notwithstanding the relative inexperience of his twenty-one years—Hudson brought his knowledge and study to bear on the solution of the great Alpine problem of the day. To his correct appreciation of the measure of accessibility of the dreaded face, aided by the great executive powers of the hitherto reluctant Croz and the solid qualities of Taugwalder, the victory was due.

Just as the history of the great mountain is for ever rightly entwined about the name of Whymper, its indomitable assailant, its immortal chronicler, alike unfortunate enough, through the failure or reluctance of his guides, to know defeat on the one face as to share 'fortuitously' in the tragic success on the other, so must that same Italian face stand eternally a monument to Jean-Antoine Carrel; so must the incomparable Zermatt face for ever commemorate the great English mountaineer, Charles Hudson, its first systematic assailant whose just appreciation overcame it. They both rest in the shadow of the great mountain.<sup>25</sup>

This appreciation was the key of success. For nearly half a generation of man it was again lost.<sup>26</sup>

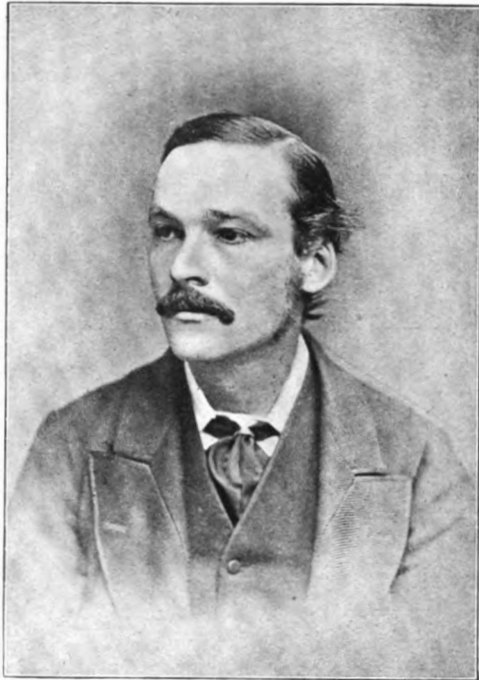
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<sup>25</sup> Mr. Hudson's remains were removed in 1913 from the village churchyard and now rest beneath the Holy Table in the English Church at Zermatt.—*A.J.* xxvii. 366.

<sup>26</sup> I certainly except Jean-Antoine Carrel. His ascent of the Cervin by the 'Galerie' immediately after the accident is an epic of mountaineering. The man who follows that gallant mountaineer



ALEXANDER BURGNER.



**FRANCIS MAITLAND BALFOUR.**  
1851—1882.



**A. F. MUMMERY.**  
1858—1895.

If we turn to the list of ascents, Appendix II., of that invaluable work to which I have already more than once alluded, 'The Alps in Nature and History,' we are compelled to admit that practically no rock mountain, possessing in any degree the inaccessible aspect of the E. face of the Cervin, if such mountain exists, was successfully, if indeed at all, attacked for many years.

We have to wait for the advent of a Ferdinand Imseng with his Macugnaga face of the Nordend, with his Zinal face of the Weisshorn; of Père Gaspard and the Meije; of Charlet and the Petit Dru; of Maquignaz and the Géant; of the parties of a recent President of the Alpine Club, of the Balfours in their attempts on the Grépon; for the days of Almer when, in the service of indefatigable explorers, he shook off the limitations of his earlier years; but, above all, for the transcendent combined mountaineering ability and enterprise of an Alexander Burgener, the conqueror, inspired by a Dent, a Hartley, a Mummery, of the Dru, and of the Grépon, mountains which combine, as the Matterhorn in ordinary conditions does not, real difficulties with an inaccessible aspect.

Five of the best have the mountains claimed even as they did Hudson and Croz.

None of these men were, possibly, rock-climbers as that term is now understood in the St. Niklaus school, to which, after peregrinations from Hasli to Grindelwald, to the Val Tournanche, to the Saasthal, the palm must probably be awarded—witness the climbs of Mr. Geoffrey Young with Joseph Knubel and of Captain Ryan with Joseph and Franz Lochmatter. But they all possessed that detachment of mind, often called courage, which, combined with high powers, alone makes the great leader.

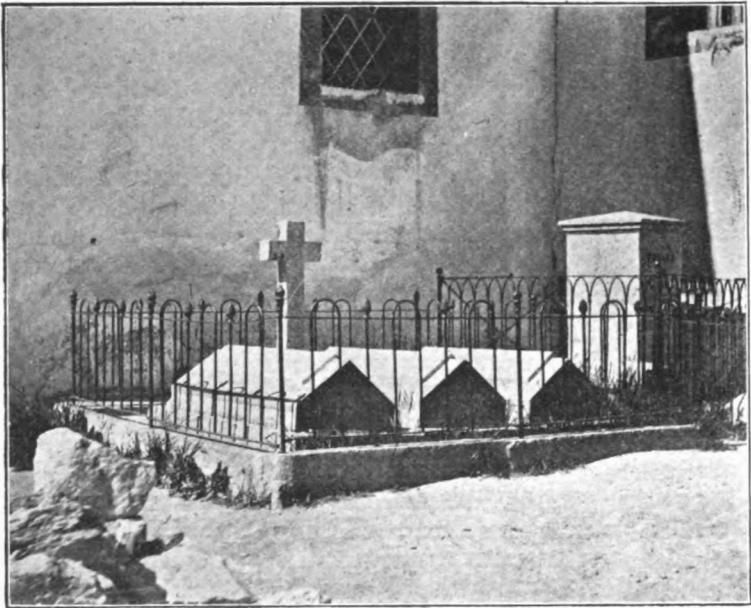
*Their merit was that they led the revival.* They were the first to take up the work where Hudson and Croz and Whymper left it nearly fifteen years before—to remove, as it were, the 'overlay' of the great catastrophe of 1865. Their successors may outstrip them to-day, but it is they who have forged the weapons enabling this result.

They all were *emancipated* from the spell of the mountains

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along the narrow path across the Tiefenmatten face, which as you proceed opens ahead but two or three yards at a time, cannot, to quote words written of another valiant guide who has equally paid the penalty of his care for his employers, fail to feel 'that involuntary tightening of the heart-strings that is the truest tribute that men can pay to sustained and brilliant courage.'

even as, years before, Hudson was. It is in this emancipation, added to highly developed skill, that to-day no mountain is safe from successful attack. Hudson and, to some extent, if latently, Croz were conscious of this emancipation at a date when Almer and Melchior, at least equal technicians, were still groping in semi-darkness. The great development in mountaineering and, more especially, in rock-climbing, is



THE GRAVES OF HUDSON AND HADOW AT ZERMATT.

due much more to the mental conception, to this new focus of possibility, than even to the much enhanced degree of the technical skill of to-day.

It was in this *modern atmosphere* of mountaineering, never divorced from prudence, that, fifty years ago, Charles Hudson dwelt. It is mainly on this aspect of his career that I have endeavoured to dwell: a career that brought forth at its close from a great judge the supreme testimony:

‘Hudson I did know, and therefore know that there never was a man who had a more active frame, a more

steady hand, or head, or foot, a firmer mind in danger, or a more keen and scrupulous sense of right and wrong. A man more unlikely rashly or inconsiderately to put in jeopardy his own life and that of others I never knew, and this not because he feared danger when it came in a proper way, but because he appreciated too highly the ties that bound him for the sake of himself and others to life and duty.'

This is the great son of the Club, whom I have ventured to term 'the prototype of the mountaineer of to-day,' the touch of whose 'vanished hand' I have tried to recall.

J. P. FARRAR.

Written early in 1915; revised November 1917.

#### NOTES ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

The portrait of Mr. Hudson is taken from a book of family photographs made by the late Rev. J. Grenville Smyth, kindly lent me by his daughter, Mrs. E. M. Stanford, to whom I am also much indebted for the portraits of her father and uncles which appeared in the last JOURNAL.

This view of the Mont Blanc range is very instructive and explains in a manner the attempts to find a way to Mont Blanc from the Col de Miage.

On the left above the clouds is seen the Aiguille du Goûter, seamed with many ribs and couloirs, while at the foot is the little glacier de la Tête Rousse which caused the St. Gervais catastrophe in 1892. Behind the Aiguille is the Dôme du Goûter. In the centre of the picture a long rock arête leads to the summit of the Aiguille de Bionnassay, the first of the apparently twin peaks in the background. The Col de Miage crosses the ridge, seen at the extreme right-hand edge of the picture, which leads to the Aiguille. Behind this arête is seen the Brouillard arête—its lower portion all rock—of Mont Blanc, whose summit is the rearmost of the apparently twin peaks. They are actually about three hours apart. Between the Dôme and the Aig. de Bionnassay is seen the French face—hitherto unascended—of the Col de Bionnassay.

This photograph from 'La Montagne' is reproduced by the courteous permission of M. Chabert and of M. Maurice Paillon.

Reference should be made to the very sympathetic notice of Mr. T. S. Kennedy in 'A.J.' xvii. 331-4, by Sir Clifford Allbutt, K.C.B., &c., to whom I am indebted for the striking likeness. Kennedy was born at Feldkirch in 1841 and was apparently undertaking great expeditions as early as 1858 ('A.J.' i. 77). He was one of the greatest mountaineers of his time, and of strikingly independent judgment. He died in 1894. It is to be regretted that more is not known of some of his earlier Alpine journeys.

A very characteristic notice by Leslie Stephen of Mr. John Birkbeck (John Birkbeck I.)—born July 6, 1817; died July 31, 1890—one of the most enterprising of our original members, of whom mention is often found in the early Journals and lately again in old Führerbücher and such-like, appears in 'A.J.' xv. 277-81.

Mr. John Birkbeck, Jun. (John Birkbeck II.)—born July 1, 1842; died April 15, 1892—was a member of the Club from 1863 to his death. He was, like his father, an enterprising and enthusiastic mountaineer.

Colonel Birkbeck (John Birkbeck III.) served in South Africa throughout the Boer War, and is now with his regiment in France. He has, so far, not followed in the footsteps of his forefathers, and, I understand, has never been in Switzerland! It is due to the courtesy of Mrs. John Birkbeck II. and of Colonel Birkbeck that the portraits of our distinguished members at last find their place in the JOURNAL.

I am indebted to the Rt. Hon. Gerald Balfour for the portrait of his brother, Professor Francis Maitland Balfour, killed with the guide Petrus on the Aiguille Blanche de Peuteret in 1882. An appreciative notice by Mr. Walter Leaf, in 'A.J.' xi. 101 *seq.*, contains the enviable tribute: 'The gap left among us by his loss at the early age of 30 is such as those outside the University will never be able to measure.'

My thanks are due to Mrs. Mummery for the portrait of her husband, whose fame is known, to the mountaineers of the whole world.

The very striking telephotograph of the E. face of the Matterhorn, for which I am indebted to Dr. C. Atkin Swan, accounts better than any description for the impression of inaccessibility which reigned for so many years.