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CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

MANCHESTER, March 16th, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

The majority of our members have probably read the notes by Mr. Douglas Freshfield in the February number of the *Alpine Journal*, in which (under cover of discussing the future of the Alpine Club) the aims of our own Club are seriously misrepresented and the members held up to ridicule. For the profit and amusement of those who have not read the paper I should like to quote a passage :—

“Any step on our part that will emphasise the fact “that this is no mere Climber’s Club, but a Mountaineer’s Club, will be a good step. Let us leave youths who depict “themselves engaged in ‘Stable Traverses’ (where, let us “hope, a soft and convenient receptacle awaits members of “unstable equilibrium) to be reformed by their President, Mr. “C. E. Mathews. If anyone is capable of the task, he is. But “let us preserve our primitive tradition and maintain this as a “Club of mountain enthusiasts, etc.”

I am not aware that when our Club was formed the name was chosen to distinguish it from a mountaineering Club—on the contrary, its principal object was stated in the initial circular to be the encouragement of mountaineering, particularly in England, Wales and Ireland. Mr. Freshfield, however, makes the distinction, and points to the Climbers’ Club as exhibiting tendencies which its illustrious parent should avoid. These supposed tendencies appear to be twofold—a spirit of rashness and self-confidence, and an absence of enthusiasm for the mountains considered as other than physical playgrounds.

Now, sir, I should like to know which of these is exhibited in the Wastdale "Stable Traverse": surely not the first—there is difficulty certainly, but no danger in it, and the mountaineer who occupies otherwise idle moments in such practice will be the less liable to come to grief when on the crags.

How does the case stand with regard to the second tendency? Is a capacity to perform the traverse to be considered incompatible with an enthusiasm for the mountains? Are the tastes for sweets and savouries mutually exclusive? I do not even see why a development of one faculty should necessarily be accompanied by a weakening of others. Does a strong mathematical faculty preclude a man from appreciating poetry and music, or does the appreciation of these fall as the faculty rises? It is satisfactory to remember that one of the greatest of mountaineers, Mr. Mummery, while confessing that he would "still climb, even though there were no scenery to look at, even if the only climbing attainable were the dark and gruesome pot-holes of the Yorkshire dales," in the same breath declared that he would continue to revel in the enjoyment of mountain grandeur though debarred from all thought of climbing. Of the fact that he did actually combine both enjoyments he has left no lack of proofs in his deeds and writings. I believe, sir, that the majority of our members have still an eye for nature, although they belong to a "mere Climbers' Club." I am aware that there are amongst us some who consider the delightful tramp to the foot of the rocks "a beastly grind," and are careless, once the climb is accomplished, of the view a hundred feet higher, from the mountain top. They are rather to be pitied for what they miss than held up to scorn. In every Club there are black sheep—even in the Alpine Club. If I am not mistaken it includes amongst its members the writer of the review in our *Journal* to which Mr. Freshfield took such strong exception (justifiably, I think, if the reviewer was serious, which seems more than doubtful).

However, these notes by Mr. Freshfield, though unfair and unkind towards us, may lead to our gain if they stimulate any lagging mountain enthusiasm amongst us. We may

congratulate ourselves, at the same time, that "a high climbing qualification" has not yet become here, as in the Alps, "to a great extent a money qualification."

Yours faithfully,

LEHMANN J. OPPENHEIMER.

A MAP FOR SNOWDON SUMMIT.

To the Editor of the CLIMBERS' CLUB JOURNAL.

19th March, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

On a visit last September to the Worcestershire Beacon, above Malvern, I was delighted to find a circular map, engraved on brass, recently erected on the summit. It had been let into the top of a granite pedestal about three feet high, and was covered in by plate glass. The names of all the prominent features of the neighbourhood were incised upon it, and on the outer rim were added the names of well known distant points which had been sighted from the spot, or the direction indicated in which they lie. Those points which had actually been observed were distinguished by the use of a special type of letter.

It occurred to me that such a map, placed on the Snowdon summit would be of considerable interest and use to visitors, and that it was exactly the class of work which the Climbers' Club might be well advised and willing to undertake.

I wrote to Messrs. Bacon & Co., of London, whose names occur on the Malvern map, and asked them for an estimate of a similar one upon Snowdon. Their letter, I regret to say, I mislaid at the time, but in February I wrote to them

again, and made further enquiries as to the pedestal. I have the honour to enclose to you their reply:—

127 STRAND, LONDON,

February 19th, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

Your favour to hand. Below please find copy of letter sent you last September 13th. There is one thing you ask which we are sorry to say we cannot supply, viz., the pedestal in which the plate is embedded, but we could ascertain the name of the party who supplied the one for the top of the Malvern Hills, if you cannot get an estimate elsewhere.

“In reply to your favour of the 8th, we have pleasure in informing you that we made the copperplate which you mention you have seen on the top of the West Beacon.

“We could make you one for Snowdon, provided you gave us the outer sketch containing the places of interest around Snowdon, and the only way to get this accurate is to take a set of photographs that can be joined so as to make a complete circle around Snowdon, then pick out the principal objects you wish depicted on the plate. We will undertake to do the inside map portion.

“With the exception of taking the photographs and selecting the places you wish shown, the whole thing, including the plate, would cost you between £35 and £40.”

Yours truly,

Mr. C. Sayle.

G. W. BACON & CO., LTD.

P.S.—We must further explain that since last writing you (September 13th) the cost of engraving has so much increased, along with all other work connected with map production, that we could not undertake it now under £45, and this would leave us a very small margin of profit. This, of course, includes the cost of the original bronze plate upon which it is engraved.

I am of opinion that the erection of such a map would tend, in some degree, to lessen the present extreme vulgarity of that spot; and I write in the hope that the Club may see their way to take the matter up. It is possible that the Directors of the Snowdon Summit Railway and the owners of the site might co-operate in what seems to me to be so good a piece of work.

I have been informed that such maps are of common occurrence in the Black Forest.

In the hope that the Climbers' Club may care to take the matter up, I beg to be allowed to give the suggestion a practical turn by offering towards it the sum of one pound.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES SAYLE.