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## EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE library of a former president of the Alpine Club, the late Mr. William Mathews, attracted many to Sotheby's. A. W. Moore's "The Alps in 1864," of the nature of a private journal, and privately printed, realised 10 guineas (Bain), and three volumes of "Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers," being records of excursions by members of the Alpine Club, published between 1859 and 1862, went for £5 10s. (Quaritch). The Leipzig issue of that solid work in fifty volumes, "Icones Floræ Germanicæ et Helvetiæ," fetched £63 10s. (Wesley), and Sowerby's "British Botany," £33 (ditto).

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IZTACCIHUATL.—This peculiar summit mentioned on page 199, No. 12, Vol. III., consists, with the exception of about a foot of snow on some of its parts, entirely of ice. About five hundred feet of its height are shown in the illustration (the frontispiece to this number), which is reproduced from a photograph taken last year by Mr. O. Eckenstein.

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MOUNT ASSINIBOINE.—The *Sphere* for February 22nd contains a reproduction of a photograph of this mountain, which has just been ascended by the Rev. James Outram, son of Sir Francis Outram. Mount Assiniboine, from certain points of view, distinctly resembles the Matterhorn. It is 11,860 feet in height.

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MONT BLANC.—Mr. G. P. Abraham of Keswick sends us a new series of mountain and climbing photographs of Chamonix, Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles. A high level of merit is well maintained throughout the whole series, but

21a. "The Petit Dru from Montanvert"; 51a. "The Lower Peaks of the Aiguille des Grandes Charmoz from the Highest Point"; 54a. "The Aiguille de Grépon from the Grandes Charmoz"; 62\*a. "View from the Aiguille du Chardonnet showing the Col du Grand Montet"; 73a. "A View near the Top of Mont Blanc at Sunrise"; 74a. "A View from the Top of Mont Blanc looking N.E."; 79a. "Mist breaking on Aiguille de la Glière, from the Aiguille de la Floriaz"; and 80a. "A View from the Aiguille de la Floriaz—the Aiguille Verte and Grandes Jorasses breaking through the Mist" demand special praise, and such sensational rock-climbing as is depicted in 28a. "Climbing the last Tower of the Aiguille de l'M"; 56\*a. "On the Traverse of the Grépon"; and 58\*a. "Climbing a Crack on the Grépon" cannot fail to give pleasure to the ardent rock gymnast.

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FATAL ACCIDENT IN SKYE.—The January number of the *Cairngorm Club Journal* gives details of the unfortunate accident on Sgurr nan Gillean, on 10th August last, whereby Mr. Alexander Whincup, Advocate of Aberdeen, lost his life. Mr. Whincup, and Mr. James Fraser, a member of the Cairngorm Club, were making the ascent of Sgurr nan Gillean, from the Coire à Bhastier side, and at the time the accident occurred were in a subsidiary gully, between Nicholson's Chimney and the one on the extreme left. Up to this time Fraser had been leading, but Whincup was now in advance of his companion, and about sixty feet above the small scree platform from which the gullies start. He disappeared towards the right, round a rock projecting from right to left across the gully. Directly after his disappearance he shouted to his companion to come and assist him to get a hold for one of his feet. Fraser was about to respond when he was startled by a loud shriek, and on looking up saw Whincup in mid air to the left. He fell with such violence on to the scree plateau that he was precipitated over a steep rock face, and fell to the great scree slope below, a distance, in all, of not less than 200 feet.

Fraser immediately descended, and finding his companion unconscious, and his injuries so manifestly serious, returned to Sligachan for assistance. Willing helpers were found at the hotel, and a party of six, including a doctor, who was fortunately at the hotel, at once started. The body was reached at 6:40 p.m.; death was certified to have been instantaneous. Appearances indicated that the deceased had been seized by a fit, and that this led to the fatality. It is only fair to say that Mr. Whincup's constitutional tendency to such seizures, was quite unknown to his mountaineering companion.

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MR. J. W. WYATT writes from Bryn Gwynan, Beddgelert, as follows:—

Starting from Llanberis on 17th January, about 1:30 p.m. I made my way into Cwm Glâs, and endeavoured to climb Crib Goch by the gully between the two pinnacles on the right of the ridge; I got about two-thirds up the gully when I found the gully blocked with a mass of thick ice; being alone, and having no ice-axe, I could not climb the ice slopes, and both sides of the gully were too precipitous to get on to the face of the rock; I was forced, therefore, to go back, with some difficulty, till I could traverse round the main pinnacle, and thence up the face of the slope to the arête and on to the top.\* The traverse round and up the base of the left-hand pinnacle is interesting, but the rocks are rather bad, and the hand-holds poor; the rest of the climb up the face and the arête presents no undue difficulty. I enclose a rough sketch showing the climb. I reached the top about 3:30 p.m., and then descended to Llyn Glâs, and over the Bwlch-y-Saethau, by Gwter Fawr, to Nant Gwynan, reaching here about 5:30 p.m.

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\* Another correspondent also refers to the mass of ice in the main gully, between the pinnacles of Crib Goch. He was one of a party of two, who, on 18th January, descended this gully throughout, and he considers that it would have been absolutely impossible for a man without an ice-axe. The doubled rope was necessary for the last man.

After two days of snow and frost on the hills, I had a very interesting, but incomplete, climb on Saturday last, 25th, with a man from this valley. Starting from here at 11 a.m., we went by Cwm Dyli waterfall, along the watershed above Llyn Teyrn, to Bwlch Moch; thence got on to the grass and scree, under the N.E. face of Crib Goch: the whole face was a sheet of ice and snow, and steps had to be cut with the axe the whole way till we got on to the N. arête, which we reached by one of the small gullies. We had a fine glissade on ice and snow from the ridge into Cwm Glâs, our intention being to climb the Parson's Nose, and back over Snowdon. We took the small cleft immediately on the W. side of the point of the nose, and found the rocks covered with ice and loose snow, and in a very bad state, almost every foot and hand-hold having to be made with the axe for about 70 to 80 feet up, till the state of the rocks made it impossible to go further without great risk, and being now nearly five p.m., we ran the risk of being benighted: had we had a rope, I think we might have managed it.\* We therefore climbed down again, and came back to Cwm Glâs and the Llanberis Pass, reaching here at 7.15 p.m., after one of the finest mountain walks I have had out of the Alps. I have never seen the scree on the slopes of Crib Goch so completely covered by a sheet of smooth ice before, the tips of the larger stones showing just through. The waterfalls in Cwm Glâs were a magnificent sight, the whole face of the rocks hanging with enormous icicles and slabs of ice, through which the running water shimmered in the sunlight. It was freezing very hard, and Llyn Glâs was completely frozen over.

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CHRISTMAS AT LANGDALE HEAD.—The visitors at the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel occupied a considerable portion of

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\* We understand from Mr. Wyatt that the cleft to which he refers is the thin crack on the face of the first pitch of the Parson's Nose, by which the ascent is usually made. The gullies running up to the lodged rock, behind the first pitch, were found clear of snow on the 18th January, and were climbed quite easily by a party of two, unroped.

their Christmas holidays in pursuit of what has recently been termed the "National Pastime," but, between the games, or sets, they managed to find time for some interesting and exciting mountaineering adventures. On Friday, 26th December, a party of two, with an 80 foot rope, while ascending the great gully on Pavey Ark, had an experience which might easily have had fatal termination.

The cave and the small climb immediately above were successfully passed: then came a steep snow slope of 40 or 50 feet, and a short vertical climb, beyond which lay another slope terminating in what was considered the *mauvais pas* of the ascent, an almost "a. p." wall of from 20 to 30 feet securely incased in ice. After a preliminary trial and failure by the leader, the second man made an attempt, and, although he was unable to proceed far he did valuable work with the axe in creating and exposing holds. He then descended, and his companion resumed the lead. He had got up some twenty feet, and was standing in a critical and insecure position on two narrow ledges, with practically no hand-hold, when, hearing a rush of snow below he turned his head and was astonished and dismayed to behold his companion disappearing down the gully on his back. A bundle of Harris tweed, enveloped in a cloud of snow, shot over the pitch immediately beneath, and the leader waited for the jerk, which he knew he would be powerless to withstand. But the jerk never came, for the second man, during his enforced idleness, noticing a large rock tooth on the left side of the gully, had swung the rope round it in a loop. When the platform of snow on which he stood (and which had appeared to be perfectly secure) gave way, and he was precipitated backwards down the gully, the rope so jammed that it never even tightened between the leader and the tooth. Had it not been for this belay, only the chance of a soft bed of snow as a landing place at the foot of the cave, could have saved the climbers.

The climb was successfully finished, and two days later was repeated by an augmented party.

NORTHUMBERLAND.—Those who chance to find themselves in Northumbria on walking or shooting bent may do worse than spare an afternoon to the Simonside, or a day to the Wanney Crag.

SIMONSIDE.—Some two miles south-west of Rothbury, and overhanging the Coquet Valley. The north face offers a close succession of firm chimneys and scrambles of varying difficulty, from twenty to fifty feet in height. Some of these, notably one immediately west of the tourists' "Broadstand" route, are not yet known to have been climbed. Round the north-west corner the rocks finish in a fine bluff, with some excellent cracks.

WANNEY CRAGS.—In the heart of the moors, eight miles west of Cambo. They are best located, as lying a few minutes north of the large Sweethope Lake. Separated into two masses facing north, the lesser, lying some two minutes north-west of the main mass, is marked by a thin projecting shutter no easy arête scramble. Behind the shutter is hidden a gully of three easy pitches. West of this, and surmounted by an enormous chockstone, is a formidable looking crack; the foot proved unnegotiable, but the chockstone can be reached by interesting traverses from either side; and is itself somewhat disappointing. Of the main mass the western end, separated by a heather slope, is yet unexplored. The rest offers good scrambles, of fifty to seventy feet, in every corner. Starting from the west, the first noticeable gully has three moderate pitches. The second is a mere depression. The third, a huge rift marked by big fallen blocks at its foot, has two pitches more difficult than they appear; the first, climbed on the left, the second, on the right. The next corner to the east contains two chimneys, uniting at their centres on a grass plot; the foot of the most easterly is a cave pitch, held by a fierce family of semi-wild goats. Yet, further east, comes a precipitous corner, with an overhanging block at two-thirds of its height, as yet unsurmounted. Beside this, and immediately west of the stone wall merging in the face, is an awkward looking crack, hitherto untried. Immediately east of the wall is the reward

of the day, a curving chimney, with smooth equidistant walls and a smooth back, parting two large overhanging bluffs. Every part of this can be climbed "back and toe."

These notes by no means exhaust the possibilities, but may serve to draw the attention of those not yet familiar with them to the desolate romance of these moors. G. W. Y.

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THE Editor will be glad to know the present address of Mr. S. Aitken, in order that he may forward the December and subsequent numbers of the *Journal*.

