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THE GRAND PARADIS ACCIDENT.

MESSRS. W. G. Clay, L. K. Meryon, T. Lindsay Winterbotham, and the Revd. R. D. Wright, who had been climbing in the Graians for over a fortnight, left the Victor Emmanuel Hut above Pont in the Valsavaranche without guides on Tuesday, the 30th August last, intending to ascend the Grand Paradis, and thence (passing along the range, which runs roughly north and south,) traverse the summits of the Petit Paradis, the Becca di Montadeyné, and the Punta Budden, and descend to Cogne in the Valnontey.

After they had reached the top of the Grand Paradis, they descended the northern arête towards the Col du Petit Paradis, cutting steps all the way, first on the east face, then on the west, and then on the east again, but keeping generally near the ridge. They were seen at intervals by other parties, and were watched through a glass from the neighbourhood of Cogne.

After reaching the Col du Petit Paradis, they went on some way by the arête towards the summit of that mountain. The weather was threatening, and no doubt on that account they turned back. A watch belonging to one of them, which was afterwards picked up, was found to have stopped at 11 o'clock.

They appear to have begun to reascend from the Col du Petit Paradis to the Grand Paradis, and passed on to the western side of the ridge, using their old tracks. They were then in ice steps, and all were wearing crampons. Beneath them a sheer ice wall (given in Bobba and Vaccarone's Guide as 600 metres in height) stretched down to the Lavaciù glacier below. Under these circumstances a slip must have occurred.

They were found lying fairly close together on the Lavacù glacier, the rope intact. Three were very near each other, and the fourth (Meryon) was a little distance away. After striking the glacier they seem, from the condition of the snow when they were found, to have slipped very little. They were little disfigured, and death was no doubt instantaneous.

The party were not expected at Cogne until very late, as they had stated that their intended expedition would be a long one, and that they possibly might not return that night.

No news of them having arrived by the following evening, search parties were organised from Cogne, which started at 2 a.m. on Thursday. These returned unsuccessful from a search of the eastern or Cogne side of the range.

On Friday other parties searched the western side, and towards evening the bodies were found.

Professor J. B. Farmer, who was climbing on the Grand Paradis, and was one of the last to see them alive, writes :— We saw the four trying to get down the rocks to the north of the Grand Paradis, just above where we were breakfasting between 7:10 and 7:40 a.m. As far as we could make out they went north, after taking again to the ridge. The rocks were snow covered and glazed (as we found at the corresponding level E of the great ice-slope). We did not see them again. The weather was close and warm, but no mist or rain came down till evening, though there was shifting mist and cloud about 10 a.m. and afterwards.

