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Journal: 1905

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CHARACTER OF THE HAPPY CLIMBER.

(With apologies to W. W.)

Who is the happy climber? Who is he
 That every mountaineer should wish to be?
 —It is the mountain lover, who is caught
 By joys of conquest, in whom hills have wrought
 Longing to overcome, until desire
 To reach untrodden summits is as fire
 Within, which urges on, nor love lets tire :
 To whom the struggle is its own reward,
 Greatest of joys the mountains can afford,
 Yet who can prize attainment, and the dower
 Of unsought pleasures in that hard-won hour—
 Visions of vastness, mystery and power :
 Who, though most joyful on a first ascent
 Of some great snow-wreathed mountain, wildly rent,
 With well-known English hills can be content :
 Who, doomed to climb in company with rain,
 Mist, frost or storm, unenviable train !
 Turns his necessity to glorious gain ;
 By weather which might force his soul to abate
 Its ardour, rendered even more elate
 Battling with obstacles which test his skill
 In conquest—triumphing by thought and will :
 Has courage to retreat if e'er arise
 Occasions which demand such sacrifice ;

And through the heat of impulse keeps the law
In calmness made—whom panic cannot awe,
Whom neither shape of danger can dismay,
Nor rashness tempt from wisdom's path to stray ;
With opportunity at his command
To strive with ridge and peak in many a land ;
Strength for the task, and beyond all beside—
Chief happiness—companions true and tried ;
This is the happy climber ; this is he
That every mountaineer should wish to be.

LEHMANN J. OPPENHEIMER.

