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## NORTHERN DINNER.

THE fourth Northern Dinner was held at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool, on Saturday, May 2nd.

It had been intended that Mr. J. Archer-Thomson, one of the Vice-Presidents, should take the chair, but illness prevented him from doing so. Several other members and their friends, to the number of 36, gathered together, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

The guest of the evening was Sir E. R. Russell, who responded to the toast of "The Visitors."

The loyal toast having been honoured,

Mr. Godfrey A. Solly (Vice-President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club), proposed "The Climbers' Club." On behalf of Mr. Gilbert Thompson, the President of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, he conveyed his sincere regrets that he was unable to be present, and his own and the Club's hearty expressions of goodwill. He (Mr. Solly) although a member of the Climbers' Club, represented that night a club from over the border with which he had been closely associated in recent years. He thought the more their clubs knew each other the better they would understand each other's ideals. The more that men went over from this side of the border to the other the more would they appreciate the grandeur of the Scottish hills. But they have in their climbing across the border one limitation. During the last few weeks the King had given them, as the Scottish Mountaineering Club, permission, in its widest sense, to go over every part of his forests in and near Balmoral, and other noblemen in that district had followed his example, the only condition being that they, loving their own sport, should in

no way injure sport of others. (Hear, hear.) He asked the Climbers' Club to study the Scottish Club's literature. They had a most valuable journal, and it seemed to him that if that were carefully studied they would not have their Scottish hills and ridges rechristened. (Laughter.) Regarding the Climbers' Club, it was started, he believed, very largely by their chairman of that evening. (Applause.) It was to unite in a friendly brotherhood men from all parts of Great Britain who did not go much to the Alps. No higher aims from a climbing point of view could have been aspired to, but since that day there had been a sort of division. Clubs had been multiplied, until now he thought there was one for every card in the suit. The ace represented the Alpine Club (A.C.), and since December there could be no doubt as to the Queen, but he was not prepared to allocate the remaining cards to the different clubs. They must try to unite that pack a little more together, either through their journals or their dinners. (Hear, hear.) In an assembly of climbers it was a little difficult to know what to say, but he would like to point out how the spirit of climbing, which was largely set in motion in Great Britain through this club, had now permeated all phases of thought and all one's acts in life. They had it in art, in journalism, in theology. Artists like G. F. Watts, T. S. Cooper or Segantini, and others had put most beautiful backgrounds of mountains into their greatest pictures. Then they had it in another form when one of their greatest theologians took for a title to one of his books "The Ascent of Man." (Laughter.) He wished prosperity to the Climbers' Club, whether it lived in its present form, or, as he hoped it would do, in some associated form with other clubs. He liked the spirit which drew mountaineers together; it gave them a bond of union in whatever part of the globe they might be. So they wished prosperity to the club and to the ideals which it embodied. (Applause.)

The Chairman responded to the toast, and said his first duty was to announce telegrams of apology from members of the club who were unable to be present. They included Mr.

Bryant, Mr. Robson, and Mr. Farmer. But the principal loss they had sustained that night was due to the absence of Mr. J. Archer-Thomson, one of the Vice-Presidents, and one of the most distinguished active climbers of their club who had intended to preside that evening, but was unfortunately too ill to come to Liverpool. In thanking Mr. Solly for the neighbourly and kindly manner in which he had proposed the toast, the Chairman said he represented a club whose aim was the same as their own, and whose territory adjoined what they were pleased to consider part of their territory. He was sure they would agree with him in hoping that the bonds between the Scottish Mountaineering Club and the Climbers' Club would from time to time be drawn closer and closer. (Applause.) Although the Climbers' Club really originated some twenty-five years ago, when a body of men, who ultimately became the Climbers' Club, began to meet together regularly year after year at Pen-y-Gwryd, they could only claim about 11 years as the period of their properly constituted existence. He regretted to say that his connection with the Club and with home climbing during the Club's existence had not been so active as it might have been if the Club had been started earlier; but he had had the good fortune during the last ten years, owing to the kindness of Mr. Thompson, to have taken part in two or three really good expeditions. Although he (the speaker) had not done much actual climbing lately, he still retained his love for the mountains, and he was very pleased the Club had prospered as it had done during the ten years of its existence. They had now nearly 300 members, and financially the Club was on a very sound basis. (Hear, hear.) He thought there was no sport like mountaineering. (Hear, hear.) He thought there was no sport that to the same extent encouraged the qualities of courage, endurance and self-reliance as mountaineering did, and he was quite prepared to say there was no other sport which encouraged to the same extent the quality of mutual reliance. Climbers sometimes found themselves in places where they must rely upon one another, where accidents

must not be allowed to happen, where the safety of each was the safety of all. Another element which he thought entitled climbing to a high place among the sports was that in climbing they fought their battles not against one another but against natural difficulties. (Hear, hear.) In climbing, one's victory did not spell another man's defeat. (Hear, hear.) But climbing was, after all, a relaxation. He thought perhaps the tendency of the times was to take sports and games somewhat too seriously, but he thought they should regard it simply as an amusement. He gave it a very high place as an amusement and a game, because it was a game that was essentially health giving, and it was a game that was played in the noblest playground in the world. (Applause.) Taking for himself the responsibility of the Chairman, though he was merely a stop-gap, he would like to utter one word of caution. The joys of climbing, he thought, were admitted, but he suggested that, by the exercise of forethought and care, the dangers of climbing might be reduced almost to nothing. Some little danger no doubt there must be in climbing, as in all other sports, but he thought that that danger might be made very small, and he would urge upon them, more especially the younger members of the Club, that when the danger became obvious, the proper course was to retrace one's steps. (Applause.) Discretion did not always imply the absence of valour; caution was not always akin to cowardice. They should approach the hills with enthusiasm, but also with respect, and if they did that he was quite sure the recollections of their climbing days would be very pleasant ones. The memories of his climbing days were amongst the most cherished possessions of his life, and the friendships of his climbing acquaintances were amongst his most valuable friendships, and he thought that to increase the number of their climbing memories and friendships they should go again, and yet again, to the mountains. If that Club had done anything to kindle or to keep alive the spirit which moved them to climb, he thought it had done something to justify its existence, and to deserve in some measure the kind greetings

which Mr. Solly had brought to them from across the border. (Applause.)

Professor Wilberforce, in a witty speech, proposed "The Visitors." He related that on one occasion he had the privilege of climbing with a very good lady climber, a lecturer at one of the universities, who had three grievances. The first was that her country would not give her a vote; the second, that her university would not give her a degree; and the third that the Alpine Club would not make her a member. The third of these grievances, he said, had been removed, and possibly the others would also be remedied soon. (Hear, hear.)

Sir Edward Russell, responding to the toast, said he had been much struck by two observations made by the Chairman. He remarked that one of the qualities of Alpine climbing was that of finish. He thought that was a word which suggested a comparison; it came into almost every capacity of pursuit, for sport and for skill in this world. They had a vision of a man climbing, and another man climbing beside him, and they saw one did it not only with a capacity for skill and assurance, but also with a kind of grace and definiteness of action, and was at once a suggestion, showing how this great pursuit, like many others, brought into its scope many subjects for consideration. Another of the same sort of suggestion was made when the Chairman said that one charm of climbing was that it was a constant contention against natural difficulties. Why, what else was life? They had to contest their own natural difficulties, difficulties centred in themselves, and which resulted from temperament or education—or the lack of it—or from environment—all these difficulties had to be contended with; and then in contending with others in the race of life they had to calculate upon the natural qualities of the men against whom they had to contend. In the pursuit of climbing there was much in it that corresponded with great necessities in the actual experience of life. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. George Seatree gave the toast of "Kindred Clubs,"

and said it was very gratifying to Alpine climbers to have such a representative gathering present that evening. There were members there of the Alpine Club, the Yorkshire Ramblers, the Scottish Mountaineering Club, the Rucksack Club in Manchester, the Fell and Rock Club of the Lake District, and last but not least, the Wayfarers' Club in Liverpool. The latter had been formed in order that local climbers might be brought together, that they might encourage each other, and take their little trips and spend their week ends together. The local climbing clubs of the country were very useful indeed as feeders to the higher kind of climbing. He hoped they would not be regarded as in any way overlapping, because there was room for them all. (Hear, hear.)

Dr. Hill, in replying, said as regarded the Alpine Club, it was one of those venerable institutions of the British Empire to which they looked up to like the House of Lords, and hoped it would not soon be abolished. (Laughter.) Of the Scottish Mountaineering Club he could not speak with any knowledge, but he could of the Yorkshire Ramblers, who, instead of copying the example of the Climbers' Club in climbing upwards, delved down into the regions below. There was present that evening a well-known member of their club, who acted as President of the Yorkshire Ramblers for many years, and his advice always was "Don't climb." (Laughter.) He took his advice, and went in for cave exploring, in which one got all sorts of climbs, from the easiest to the most difficult. The Wayfarers' Club, in the foundation of which he had a share, had, he was pleased to say, after about a year's existence, between 50 and 60 members, but he would like to see that number doubled in the near future. (Hear, hear.)

The formal proceedings concluded with the honouring of the Chairman's health, on the proposition of Sir Edward Russell, but, at the request of several members, Mr. Earl afterwards gave an interesting account of his climbing expeditions in New Zealand and the Rocky Mountains.