

CHANOINE CARREL OF AOSTA.

THE bearer of this name, so well known to members of the Alpine Club who frequented the Italian mountains, is no more. The old canon was struck by a partial paralysis of the brain towards the end of April of last year, and he gradually sunk under the disease. Few men have done more than Chanoine Carrel in trying to bring constantly before the travelling public the natural beauties of the Italian Alps.

Of humble origin, without fortune, without the aid of powerful friends, from his mountain home at Aosta he strove manfully *alone* against enormous difficulties, and, alas! against the prejudices of his own countrymen. At length his untiring energy was appreciated, and he was able to publish his panorama of the Becca di Nona, establish by means of a subscription of the Italian Alpine Club the hut at the cravate on the Matterhorn, found a branch of the Turin Club at Aosta, furnished with Alpine books, maps, photographic views, panoramas, &c., and commence a small collection of animals, plants, minerals, specimens of rocks, &c., of the district, which he intended to place in the rooms.

It is gratifying to know that out of honour to his memory the members of the Italian Alpine Club at Aosta (which has greatly increased in numbers since his death) are trying vigorously to carry out the pet designs of their lamented countryman.

It is proposed to place a portrait of the old mountaineer in the rooms of the Club, together with a selection of his correspondence with scientific men. His ruling passion, love of his native mountains, was strong even till death; and an English friend when visiting him roused him from his lethargic state by repeating the well-known names of MM. Ball, Reilly, W. Mathews, Whymper, Nicolls, and Professor Tyndall, whom he justly considered as the benefactors of his valley. When the name of his friend Mr. Tuckett was mentioned, he added with energy, 'C'est un brave cœur!' Nearly his last words were, 'Je finirai par faire mon panorama du haut du Mont Cervin,' which seems to have been one of the great objects of the latter days of this singularly energetic man. His example has not been lost upon his countrymen, and his nephew, Joseph Carrel, Recteur de Cogne, with the Curé Chamonin, the well-known explorer of the Grivola, are now writing a work called, 'La Géographie de la Vallée d'Aoste,' which will probably throw more light upon the topography of those parts.

Canon Carrel was born at Valtournanche, on the Italian side of the Matterhorn, and was upwards of seventy years of age at his death. He was justly proud of his descent from the family of the great De Saussure.

Readers of the 'Alpine Journal' who wish for a more detailed account of his life, will find it in an article of the 'Bullettino del Club Alpino Italiano,' written by his fellow-countryman, Abbé Gorret Amé de Valtournanche.

It is impossible in such a brief sketch to do justice to this simple-hearted but patriotic man, but it was thought he deserved to be mentioned in the pages of the 'Alpine Journal,' as he was always styled by the inhabitants of the Valley of Aosta, 'L'Ami des Anglais.'

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