

to help his guides to avoid this danger. The leader on an arête is naturally engrossed in his own labour, and also unable from his position to observe the nature of the ground actually underfoot so well as his followers, who are some of them 50 feet below him. The Lyskamm itself gives an instance of what may be done. Mr. Hardy ('P. P. and Glaciers,' II. series, vol. i. p. 390), describing the first ascent of the mountain, tells us how the leading guide, P. Perren, constantly appealed to those in his rear to know how he stood with regard to the cornice. A further security is provided if the traveller insists that the proper amount of rope (18 to 20 feet) separates every member of the party.

At Zermatt itself it may be believed that no warning will be wanted for many years; but in other parts of the Alps there are many guides, very much less skilful and far more likely to commit an error of judgment than the poor fellows whose fate we now deplore, on whom the lesson of the Lyskamm should be impressed by travellers. While fully agreeing with all that has been written or said as to the superiority of guides over amateurs in physical qualities, we are sure that there are many matters of snow and ice craft in which an experienced Alpine Clubman can give a second-rate guide—and a great proportion of guides must always be second-rate—very valuable instruction.

It has been evident from the first that the catastrophe arose from a cause entirely independent of the condition of any of the climbers. The discussion raised in the 'Times' on this subject has accordingly been generally looked on among mountaineers as both unkind and pointless, and the Editor of the 'Alpine Journal' has been asked by numerous correspondents to give some expression to this feeling on the part of the Club.

It seems also right to point out that the article on 'The Lyskamm Accident,' in the 'Saturday Review,' hitherto deservedly looked on as trustworthy on Alpine matters, was both wrong as to facts and wild in its suggestions.

The subscriptions which have been received for the widows and families of the three Knubels are acknowledged, as far as has been possible, within the cover of our present number. There are in the three families six children, all under six years of age. It is proposed under local advice so to invest the money as to insure to the widows the largest possible yearly annuity until the children are of an age to support themselves and their parents. Any further subscriptions should be sent to F. Wallroth, Esq., 4 Hare Court, Temple, E.C.—EDITOR.

WILLIAM LONGMAN

(AND HIS LAST WORK).

It is impossible to allow this number of the Alpine Journal to appear without some tribute to the memory of Mr. William Longman, in whose death we have to lament the loss of one of the earliest founders and most enthusiastic supporters of the Alpine Club.

He has himself frequently stated that he made no claim to the character of a mountaineer, inasmuch as the modern style of high mountaineering was unknown before he had settled down in life at an age when men can hardly be expected to betake themselves to pursuits which require the full energy of youth to carry them out to perfection. But there never was a man with a keener enjoyment of the mountain-land and of everything connected with it.

In the spring of 1856 he published the 'Ascent of Mont Blanc without Guides,' by Messrs. Hudson and Kennedy, the result of his acquaintance with them being that in the summer of the same year he was induced to make his first tour in Switzerland in company with our fellow-member, Mr. Henry Trower. Without attempting any of the more important expeditions in the High Alps, he nevertheless made himself sufficiently acquainted with some of the principal glacier-passes to acquire a taste and love for mountain-scenery and mountain-life which increased rather than diminished with succeeding years. He had, moreover, a true taste for Natural History in all its forms; and his intelligent mind always lent itself to a scientific observation of the many peculiar and interesting phenomena which await those who are ready to use their eyes as well as their limbs among the beauties and the wonders of the mountains.

When the first little knot of mountaineers proposed the formation of an Alpine Club, they found themselves naturally drawn towards him, not only as the publisher of some of their earliest writings about the Alps, but also as a man who showed from the beginning an intensity of interest in the undertaking which could not be surpassed by even the most active and enterprising of the founders. From that moment he devoted himself to the welfare of the rising Club with the energy of one who never turned his hand back from the plough, and was never deterred from his undertakings in life by any obstacles till they were proved to be altogether insuperable. In the earliest meetings of the first Committees his wise counsels and suggestions had very considerable weight: and probably no one of the originators of the Club did more towards preparing a good and permanent foundation for the structure which has since assumed such a substantial and satisfactory form. It was entirely to his individual enterprise that the publication of the first series of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers' was due, and the result more than justified his belief in its success; at a later period he took up Icelandic exploration with his usual warm interest, and the paper on the island which he prepared had considerable effect in exciting members of our Club to visit it, and explore some of its recesses.

As a member of the Committee for many years, as Vice-President and President of the Society, he never lost an opportunity of attending to the duties of his office unless under the pressure of entirely inevitable circumstances, or the necessary engagements of a more than usually busy life: and he was not only an enthusiastic supporter as long as his bodily powers endured, but, faithful to the last, he exerted himself, even in the intervals of mortal sickness, upon what was to him a true labour of love, the preparation of a record of the origin, history, and

successes of that Alpine Club in which he had taken so profound an interest.

Those who knew him best will miss him most. Not only, however, do his more intimate friends mourn his loss; but every individual of our Club who may have been thrown in contact with him will long remember the frank welcome, the genial smile, and the strong hand of fellowship that were ever offered to him by William Longman.

T. W. HINCHLIFF.

As a member of the Club, or as Mr. W. Longman's friend, I can add nothing to the fitting tribute Mr. Hinchliff has paid to his memory. But as Editor of the *Journal*, it falls on me to give some explanation of the state in which Mr. Longman left his last work, and of the steps that have been taken with respect to it.

Mr. Longman's illness necessarily interrupted the appearance of the papers on 'Modern Mountaineering and the Alpine Club.' They had their origin, as Mr. Longman has stated, in a suggestion of mine, made some time ago, that he should write a short account of the circumstances under which the Club was formed. I pointed out to him that after a lapse of nearly twenty years, they had become unknown even to many of our members, and that abroad, where, among the numerous societies which look up to the English Alpine Club as their parent, the matter is thought of much interest, lack of information had led to the publication of various and inaccurate reports.

Mr. Longman, as soon as he had disposed of the work connected with St. Paul's he had then in hand, took up the idea with his accustomed energy and enthusiasm. He was not content to confine himself to the story of the rise of the Club, but contemplated treating this as a central episode in a series of papers, ultimately to be published as a book, the first portion of which was to relate the feats of the early mountaineers which preceded the Club's foundation, the last to be occupied with a summary of the contributions of our own members to a better knowledge of the Alps by ascents, explorations, or literary or artistic work. This plan was rather developed gradually in Mr. Longman's mind than proposed or accepted at starting. It may fairly be doubted whether it was not too extensive to be carried out within reasonable space without either a sacrifice of completeness, or the reduction of the narrative by the omission of details to a bare and unreadable catalogue. I do not think it was. The history of the Alps up to 1857 might, with some cost of time and pains, be welded into a narrative for the most part new to English readers, and containing much information now practically inaccessible to the public. It might have been told, together with the story of the foundation of the Club, in one volume of moderate dimensions. This would have been made more attractive to many readers by the insertion of facsimiles of some of the very quaint illustrations to early Alpine books, after the fashion of Colonel Yule's 'Marco Polo.' The later history of the Club might have been treated in two ways. Two tabulated appendices giving respectively a catalogue of the literary productions and maps published by members, and a list of the great peaks and passes, with the date of

the first ascent or passage, and the names of the climbers, might have been added to the book, the plan of which has been described above.

I do not fancy, however, that Mr. Longman would have been content with this. Many as are the volumes of modern Alpine literature, no tolerable selection of the most interesting narratives of mountain ascents has yet been published in England, and the want has only been made more manifest by the one or two feeble attempts which have been made by translation or otherwise to supply it. The three volumes of 'Peaks, Passes, and Glaciers,' and the eight volumes of the Journal, afford ample material for such a selection, and a choice of excellent illustrations ready to hand, which could scarcely fail to make the book attractive. Mr. Longman would probably have terminated his first volume with the foundation of the Alpine Club, and gone on in a separate work to tell the story of the conquest of the Alps by its members, rendering the book valuable for reference to mountaineers, as well as a popular sketch, by such tables as he had in contemplation.

Mr. Longman's untimely death has rendered it necessary for me to consider what should be done with the uncompleted fragment. He left the chapter, the origin of the work, on the foundation of the Club, finished. He left also in proof a chapter on the Oberland, which had been written during his illness. From this cause, and the consequent impossibility he suffered from of making the frequent references necessary to obscure books, many of which are only to be found in the British Museum, the matter as it stood called for considerable revision. Mr. Longman was perhaps of all authors the most ready to receive and accept suggestions, and, remembering this, I have not scrupled to take great liberties with his proofs, making accuracy and completeness my only object. How far I have succeeded others must judge. The 'introduction' is almost wholly new, as are also the sections on the Wetterhorn and Schreckhorn; and having, through the kindness of Herr G. Studer, received a copy of a rare volume, giving R. Meyer's own account of his mountaineering in 1812, I have felt obliged to modify, and in some instances reverse, Mr. Longman's verdicts in the disputed cases of the earliest ascents. As the chapter appears under his name, it has seemed to me right to indicate the limits of his responsibility.

For the present I propose to publish at once, as an appendix to the present and succeeding number of this volume of the Journal, what Mr. Longman left behind him, that is to say the chapters on the Oberland and on the foundation of the Club. The completion of the work he planned must remain a matter for subsequent consideration. I had lately collected, and thrown roughly into shape, ready for his use, the material for 'The Alps of N. and E. Switzerland,' and had received promises of assistance in further chapters from members of the Club. The start thus made need not be thrown away. An historical article will be welcome from time to time to readers of the Journal, and, unless members show unusual literary activity, can probably be published within its ordinary limits.

For the binders' convenience, it has been necessary to divide the Oberland chapter in the middle.—D. W. FRESHFIELD.

All 'Alpine Notes' are reserved for the next Number.