

like the forms supposed by M. Viollet-le-Duc to have preceded those at present seen; and, with some exceptions, the process of later changes is fairly indicated in the account he gives, and always admirably illustrated. Indeed, the greatest merit of the book consists in the work of M. Viollet-le-Duc's skilful pencil.

He has also some excellent chapters on the courses of the torrents and their deposits in the valleys, and concludes with one upon the influence of the labours of man on the distribution of watercourses. This portion of the work has less reference to our proper subject, and this consideration, and the length to which this notice has already extended, must preclude us from quoting some good observations upon the mischievous effects of the removal of forests, and the beneficial results which would follow from judicious planting and the regulation of watercourses.

We must not conclude without a reference to the author's careful and detailed map of Mont Blanc. M. Viollet-le-Duc's map is, as to the general outline and the figured heights, a reproduction of that of Capt. Mieullet and the French *État-Major*, of which the central portion only was published, to this scale, in 1865. The details have been carefully studied and re-drawn, and are artistically represented, and, we believe, generally accurate in the present map; though some portions—for example, the upper part of the Brenva Glacier—appear faulty, as in the map of Capt. Mieullet. An error of 4771 for 4471 mètres in the height of Mont Maudit has been copied without correction; and we may here notice that the same error was reproduced, in feet (15,653 for 14,669) in some early copies of the Alpine Club map. It is interesting to compare this map with that of 1865, with reference to the change that has taken place in the extent of the glaciers in the course of a few years. M. Viollet-le-Duc fully acknowledges his obligations to Capt. Mieullet and M. Bardin in the compilation of his map, but he does not seem to be aware how much the former and the French Staff were indebted for the correctness of their work in the higher regions to our zealous and industrious member, Mr. Adams-Reilly.—R. C. N.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

The Annual General Meeting took place on December 18, Mr. HINCHLIFF, *President*, in the chair.

Messrs. E. J. Layton, J. Baumann, C. J. Hall, J. Heelis, T. Jose, G. Yeld, F. O. Schuster, C. Haig, J. Nérot, and W. Ford were elected Members.

The following gentlemen were elected as officers for the ensuing year, viz. *President*, Mr. C. E. MATHEWS; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. DOUGLAS W. FRESHFIELD and the Rev. H. B. GEORGE; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. C. T. DENT. *New Members of Committee*, Messrs. W. A. B. COOLIDGE, W. E. DAVIDSON, and A. W. MOORE. The other Members of Committee were re-elected.

Mr. D. FRESHFIELD, in proposing that Rule XII. be altered by the insertion, in the place of the words 'list of literary contributions or

mountain expeditions,' forming part of the first sentence, of the following words: 'list of mountain expeditions or a statement of the contributions to Alpine literature, science or art,' explained that the object of the change was to bring the wording of the rule into exact agreement with the principle on which the Club was founded, and on which its Members had been constantly elected. The qualification which had always been required for membership was some substantial proof of love of the Alps, which might be given either in the shape of mountain ascents, or of contributions to Alpine literature, science, or art. He referred to the early candidates' books, in which many of our present Members' names are entered as passed in Committee on such qualifications as 'Alpine artist,' 'Alpine botanist,' 'Author of ——.' A recent Committee, however, had doubted whether, under the wording of the rule, they had power to pass an Alpine artist, and had applied to the Club to give them formally the power which had invariably been assumed and exercised by their predecessors. Mr. Freshfield now asked the Club to deliver the Committee from the absurd position of being able to propose a candidate for literary but not for artistic merit, and to confirm the alliance between painters and climbers, which had already borne so much good fruit in the advancement of Alpine art, and the promotion among our Members generally of an intelligent study and appreciation of mountain scenery.

The motion was seconded by Mr. C. E. Mathews, and supported by the President. After some discussion, in which Mr. W. L. Jordan expressed his belief that the Club was meant and ought to be simply a confraternity of climbers, the motion was passed by more than the requisite two-thirds majority.

Mr. ECCLES read a paper on the ascent of Mont Blanc by the Brouillard and Fresnay Glaciers, which will be published in the next number.

The annual Winter Dinner of the Alpine Club was held at Willis's Rooms, on December 19, when about 170 Members and their friends sat down, Mr. Hinchliff, President, in the chair. Among the guests were Mr. Watson, late Secretary of Legation at Teheran, Mr. Ralston, and Professor Bryce. A large collection of Alpine paintings and drawings was shown. Among the artists represented were Mr. Barnard (views near Zermatt); Mons. Loppé (sunset seen from the top of Mont Blanc, showing the shadow of the mountain); Mr. Croft (the Breithorn, from the Riffel, a remarkable study of ice and snow slopes); Mr. Severn; Mr. A. Williams (the Cimon della Pala); and Mr. J. Gilbert.

At a Committee Meeting held on January 22, to which all who had acted as collectors were invited, it was determined to distribute the 'Knobel Fund,' now amounting to 910*l.* 17*s.* 3*d.*, in the following manner:—1. To pay off the mortgages at present existing on the property of the deceased guides and their widows; and one on the property of the mother of the guides, who is still alive, amounting in all to 292*l.* 2. To give to each of the widows 40*l.*, and to the mother 20*l.* 3. To divide the residue into six equal portions, and to invest a portion in the name of each of the children of the deceased guides, reserving the income to the widow until the child shall have attained the age of eighteen.