

ambassadors to the Sublime Porte reached their destination by taking this route from the coast.'

Again, 'There is scarcely room, beside the waters of the river, for the small path between the walls of the gorge which are scarcely fifty paces apart. On the left hand in particular the bare rock precipices were terribly grand and descended nearly perpendicularly to the stony bed, along which bubbled the clear waters of the stream. This gate once possessed its "keeper" or "guardian" "Vrata in Sutiska"—a name given in fifteenth-century documents to the castle the ruined walls of which can still be seen on the edge of a cliff of the Volujak. Opposite this castle and on the left bank of the stream was another smaller one perched on a projecting spur. Duke Stephen (1435-1460) established a customs station here, and bitter complaints were made by the men of Ragusa of attacks made by its occupants on the silver treasure which was being transported by the merchants of that great town. Both castles were hewn out of the living rock and accessible by a rugged path along which one person only could pass at a time. A couple of men, armed only with boulders of rock, could easily hold this defile against a whole army, and it was also customary to bar the way by means of a huge iron chain.'

In the collection of photographs presented by M. de Déchy to the Royal Geographical Society are two of this gate. He has written under them as a title 'Felsenthor Tovarnica.' On the Austrian Ordnance Map (1 : 75,000) the mountain on the left (N) of the gorge bears the name 'Tovarnich,' and the gorge itself is called Projecinica Vrata (vrata = gate).

It is surely obvious that a barrier presenting such remarkable natural and artificial features, and lying across a high road of commerce (which had probably existed from Roman times) was likely to impress itself on the memory of passers-by and to be a matter of description and discussion among the merchants of the Adriatic. The fame of its rocks might very easily have reached Dante's ears. He mentions the tombs at Pola, which, unless he made some unrecorded journey towards the eastern shore of the Adriatic, he must also have known of only by hearsay. Need we search any further for his Tavernicch? I think not.

THE MEMORIAL TO THE LATE C. E. MATHEWS.

WE are indebted for the following account to the 'Birmingham Daily Post' of August 24, 1907.

An interesting ceremony took place on Tuesday last in the garden of Couttet's Hotel at Chamonix, on the occasion of the unveiling of a memorial to the late Mr. Charles Edward Mathews, erected by the English Alpine Club. The monument takes the form of a block of granite hewn to the shape of a frustum of a pyramid on a rectangular base, on one side of which a facet has been cut for the

following inscription, written by the Right Rev. G. F. Browne, Bishop of Bristol, the present president of the Alpine Club :—

CAROLO EDVVARDO MATHEWS
 MONTIUM AMATORI
 AMATORES
 FRATERNITATIS ALPINÆ SODALI
 SODALES
 E FUNDATORIBUS SUPERSTITI
 FRATRES
 AMICO JUCUNDISSIMO
 AMICI
 OBIT VALDE DEPLENDUS
 AS MCMV AET LXXII.

The principal figure in the ceremony was Professor Clifford Allbutt, of Cambridge, who had been specially deputed to represent the Alpine Club.

Professor Allbutt said that as unfortunately the Bishop of Bristol, the president of the English Alpine Club, had found it impossible to be present, the bishop and some senior members of the club had requested him to unveil the monument on behalf of the president of the club. Although as a mountaineer he could not for one moment compare himself with Charles Edward Mathews, yet in respect of a long and almost unbroken series of seasons in the Alps he might consider himself not unworthy of the honourable duty thus entrusted to him. He referred also to the Climbers' Club, founded for climbers in the hills of Great Britain, of which Mr. Mathews and he himself were original members. Charles Edward Mathews came of a climbing family. His elder brother, William Mathews, had been president of the English Alpine Club; his younger brother, George, promised to be a very expert mountaineer, but after a few seasons found himself unable to continue his visits to the Alps; a cousin—Mr. Attwood Mathews—was an active climber, and an original member of the English Alpine Club, and Mr. Myles Mathews, the son of Charles Edward Mathews, was following successfully in his father's footsteps. Mr. Mathews was president of the English Alpine Club for the years 1878–80, but this stone would give a very imperfect idea of the invaluable services rendered by him to the club and to mountaineering during a period of some fifty years. Of these many and great services time would permit him to speak of two only. He would speak first of Mathews's climbing career as one of true devotion to the mountains for their own sake, and of true enjoyment of what he was wont to call a noble pastime. Thus it was that in his mountain excursions there was no spirit of unworthy rivalry, no petty jealousy, or any theatrical achievements. And it was due largely to the example of Mathews that Alpine sport has hitherto been pursued, to speak generally, in a disinterested spirit. The second service—one which mountaineers owe more, perhaps, to Mathews than to any other of the pioneers of the Club,

was that with his large experience, his strong good sense, and his keen and vigorous style of speaking and writing, he was able to impress upon one of the youngest of the sports a body of custom, and to establish a sound tradition of rules and precautions which have served to educate the rising generations of climbers, and if not wholly to prevent rashness and ignorance, yet to diminish these errors, and to make them less and less excusable.

THE SPELL OF MONT BLANC

The monument to be unveiled that day was more than welcome in Chamonix, and was erected there with a peculiar fitness. The strange, the mighty enchantment which all mountaineers had felt in the presence of Mont Blanc had laid its spell upon Mathews so deeply that he had ascended the mountain no fewer than twelve times, and, in his admirable 'Annals of Mont Blanc,' he had offered an imperishable tribute to the monarch of mountains. Thus his name would worthily stand with those of Balmat, Couttet, Paccard, Simond, Saussure, Bourrit—to name a few only of the Alpine pioneers of France and Savoy. Among many eminent names which time forbade him to record, he must, however, add that of one whom even in Chamonix he must venture to call the 'doyen' of guides—Melchior Anderegg; indeed, Mathews could not be fully commemorated without a like honour to his faithful and venerable comrade. Nor was Melchior Anderegg without claim to a place among the pioneers of Chamonix, for was it not he who, with the speaker's deeply-lamented schoolfellow Charles Hudson (and Mr. Hodgkinson) made practicable the route to the summit of Mont Blanc by the Bosses? And once again, he would remind the audience that at the present time another memorial was being erected in Chamonix, in the old churchyard, to the late François Dévouassoud, who might be called the type of modern guide as Mathews was the type of the amateur mountaineer.

Of Mathews's high qualities in other spheres than that of Alpine sport there was no time for him to speak fully. His energy in the mountains was, however, but one expression of his vigour and efficiency in many other fields. As a public writer and speaker he was incisive, effective, and interesting, and, as a critic, as keen as he was kindly. He had many other intellectual interests also, including a genuine love for the best English literature. And last, if not least, in the recollections of his friends he was a most genial and interesting companion, and an incomparable host.

At the conclusion of Professor Allbutt's address, Miss F. M. M. Browne, daughter of the Bishop of Bristol, stepped on a raised platform and unveiled the monument.

A BIRMINGHAM TRIBUTE

Professor Allbutt then called upon the Rev. E. F. M. MacCarthy to address the gathering. The reverend gentleman said that, in
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the presence of that assemblage of eminent mountaineers, he was shy of the prominence given to him, but he would respond to Professor Allbutt's call because he had enjoyed the friendship of Charles Edward Mathews for a long series of years, and, in fact, had stood in that very garden forty years ago with him, and had made his early climbs under his guidance. As no other representative of Birmingham, Mr. Mathews's native town, was present, he would like to tell that assembly that Charles Edward Mathews was a strong man mentally as well as physically, and, like all truly strong men, was as earnest and strenuous in the more serious activities of life as he was in its pleasurable ones. As Town Councillor, Governor of King Edward's School, Clerk of the Peace to the Justices, and legal adviser to the School Board, he gave of his best in time and powers to promote the welfare of the community among which his long life was spent, and on his death, two years ago, the Lord Mayor and prominent citizens of Birmingham, most of whom knew only remotely of his physical exploits, had attended a memorial service in the Parish Church to testify to the value of his municipal and social activities. Such was the massive man whose physical prowess was borne witness to by that massive granite pillar. The snows of 'Sovran Blanc' would know his footprints no more; but this was a fitting moment to record that Charles Edward Mathews had left a more enduring impress, not only on the tablets of his comrades' memories, not only on the pages of his own painstaking history of the monarch whose devoted subject he was, but also on the records of his native town.

M. Loppé, the eminent Alpine artist and mountaineer, then spoke on behalf of Savoy and France in terms of cordial acceptance of the monument erected in Chamonix to the memory of his dear friend and the best of good fellows, Charles Edward Mathews. He had known Mr. Mathews almost for a lifetime, and admired him as a disinterested lover of the mountains, as a successful and indefatigable climber, and as a master of the art of mountaineering. No one had done more than Mathews to establish this noble pastime, and to teach how its risks were to be foreseen and prevented. He lamented in him also the loss of a genial and interesting companion and friend.

PROTEST AGAINST THE PROPOSED MATTERHORN RAILWAY.

So long as there seemed any possibility of action from external quarters being unwelcome in Switzerland, the Alpine Club, although feeling strongly on the subject, refrained from making, either through its Committee or in this 'Journal,' any representations in favour of the preservation of the scenery of the High Alps from the assaults threatened by speculators in the tourist industry. But last spring our Committee, having been invited by the Swiss Alpine Club to express