September 9, 1868. M. Paul Sauzet, of Lyons, the first French climber to reach the summit, enters the following lines:

Première ascension du Mont Cervin faite par un français; Guides Joseph Maquignaz et Antoine Carrel; pour la première fois arrivé au sommet et descendu jusqu'à Breuil dans la même journée.

THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA.

[We have ventured to reprint this letter.—EDITOR.]

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ALPINE CLUB OF CANADA.

Greeting:

As a national organisation, the Alpine Club of Canada has nobly upheld the best traditions of the Empire. Canadians have covered themselves with glory, and not least among them are the Members of the Club who have fought abroad or worked at home in the Empire's cause.

Some ninety-five members have been enrolled for Active Service. Of these, as far as we know, three have joined the Supreme Honour Roll, fifteen have been wounded, two are prisoners of war, three have won the D.S.O., four have won the Military Cross, two have won the Cross of the Legion of Honour, one the D.C.M.; there have been nine mentions in despatches, one lady member has been decorated and one has been given the rank of Hon. Captain.

This is a record of which we may well be proud, and one that will closely bind the traditions of the Club with the traditions of the Empire of which it is a part.

The Alpine Club of Canada is striving to hold its own during these years of difficulty and stress. It is doing so on behalf of those at the Front who are eagerly looking to the time when we can again unite in peace and happiness around the camp fire beneath the snow-clad peaks we love so well.

We at home are trying to do our part and to stand firmly together, shoulder to shoulder, so that when the time comes—and God grant that it may come soon—we can give our men the welcome they deserve and show them how truly we appreciate the great and glorious sacrifices they are making for us, for our liberty, and for our homes.

I ask all members to give every possible help to this end. Such help can best be given by remaining members of the Club, so that in future years of peace we shall have the right to point with pride to the traditions created for our Club by its soldier members in the time of war.

With sincere good wishes to you and the hope that the New Year

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may bring us the great joy and happiness of Peace with Honour, and the vindication of Right and Justice, without which let there be no peace.

I am,

Very faithfully yours,

ARTHUR O. WHEELER,

Director.

THE EXOTIC GRANITES OF THE HABKERNTHAL.

DURING a long stay at Berne and at Spiez, on the Lake of Thun, I had a good opportunity for examining the exotic granites and collecting specimens in the Habkernthal. I also visited the bunte nagelfluh on the north side of the Lake of Thun.

The bed of the Rombach, a stream flowing down the Habkern Valley to the Lake of Thun, is full of blocks of these granites. Higher up the valley, larger blocks are imbedded in the shales of the Flysch. These granites vary in colour and structure; most of them have two felspars, pink and white; some are porphyritic, others have veins of epidote and pegmatite and are not found as rocks in any part of the Alps. Some few blocks have been found at Rueschegg, near Schwarzenburg, and near the baths of Gurnigel. Of these I saw specimens in the museum at Berne. The bunte nagelfluh is intimately connected with and evidently partially derived from these granites. I noticed some pebbles in this formation very like the Habkern granites.

Swiss geologists have two theories explaining the origin of these formations. One theory is that they came from the Schwarzwald, as some of the porphyritic granites of that range resemble those of the Habkernthal.

But it is difficult to understand how these blocks and pebbles could have travelled south.

The other theory, more generally accepted, is that these granites formed part of a mountain range existing in the south-east of Switzerland, before the grand upheaval of the present Alps in Miocene times.

In confirmation of this theory, I may mention that I noticed that the pebbles at Gunten, on the Lake of Thun, were larger than those at Belpberg near Berne, the smaller pebbles having been carried further to the north by the action of water than the larger ones. I also saw, with the coloured granites in the Habkernthal, blocks of a white granite, very like the protogine from the Aar glacier. Protogine does not occur in the Schwarzwald.

The Habkern blocks were mentioned by Murchison in 1849, also by Ball, 'Central Alps,' p. 60 (second edition). They are fully discussed in Professor Bonney's 'Building of the Alps,' pp. 48–52, and in his paper published in the *Quart. Jour. Geol. Soc.* 1902,

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