

Birnie and Dorje crossed another pass to N.W. before returning to camp.

July 21.—Smythe, Shipton and porter Nima to 20,000 ft. on 21,800 ft. peak S.E. of camp. Turned back by bad weather.

July 22.—Smythe, Shipton and Nima ; Birnie and porter Dorje, in two parties, climbed 21,800 ft. peak mentioned above. Snow conditions difficult. Smythe involved in avalanche accident on way down—injuries: broken rib and severe bruising.

Greene, Holdsworth and Beauman climbed 20,500 ft. rock peak to W. of camp.

(Note.—Expedition now split into three self-contained parties.)

July 25–29.—Birnie, with Dorje and other high-climbing porters, explored three passes over the Badrinath Range, one of which leads without difficulty to the Gangotri Glacier.

Returned to Mana July 29.

Shipton and Holdsworth ascended three peaks of 21,500, 21,000 and 20,400 ft. in neighbourhood of camp.

Holdsworth also did some good ski-ing on glaciers.

Returned to Mana July 29.

July 25–27.—Smythe, Greene and Beauman returned to Mana by the Arwa valley and Ghastoli.

July 28–29.—Smythe and Greene ascended Alaknanda Valley and reached point on glaciers where source of the Ganges starts.

July 30–31.—Shipton and porter Nima climbed 19,000 ft. snow peak to E. of Mana.

July 31.—Whole party assembled at Badrinath.

August 2–13.—To Ranikhet by the Pilgrim Route. At times descended to 2,000 ft. Heat, smells, flies, pilgrims, mosquitoes, etc., etc.!

E. B. BEAUMAN.

EARLY ASCENTS OF MONT BLANC.

A. 'YOUNG WOODLEY,' 1788.

IN the summer of 1788 a young Englishman named William Woodley visited Chamonix. There he met a Dutch gentleman by the name of Camper,¹ with whom he agreed to attempt the ascent of Mont Blanc. They fell in with Marc-Théodore Bourrit, who had tried the climb on numerous occasions, and his son, with whom they decided to join forces. Twenty-two guides were engaged, and the caravan departed with two tents, a ladder, and provisions for six days.

¹ Son of the anatomist and physician, Pieter Camper (1722–89).

The night was passed at the Grands Mulets ² and, on the following morning, August 5, they reached the Petit Plateau about nine o'clock. The weather turned stormy and several of the guides gave up altogether. Woodley was far ahead, with the guides Jacques Balmat, Jean-Michel Cachat, Dominique Balmat and Alexis Balmat. Camper followed, with Bourrit lagging behind with three guides, Jacques des Dames, Jean-Baptiste Lombard, and Tournier.

The snow and wind caused Camper to desist in his attempt. Bourrit, fearing that Woodley was lost, actually reached the last rocks on the calotte before turning back. Woodley, defying all difficulties, attained the summit and returned,³ the reunited party remaining for a second night at the Grands Mulets. Woodley's feet were frost-bitten, one of the guides was snowblind, and Cachat suffered from frozen hands. This was Bourrit's last attempt to ascend the mountain.

Thus, with Beaufoy, Woodley became one of two Englishmen who stood on the summit of Mont Blanc in the eighteenth century. Fourteen years passed before the highest point was reached again—by Dorthesen and Forneret in the summer of 1802. So little has been known of Woodley, at least in mountaineering circles, that in this paper I have ventured to bring together certain isolated facts concerning his life.

Woodley was descended from William Woodley of Nevis, Leeward,

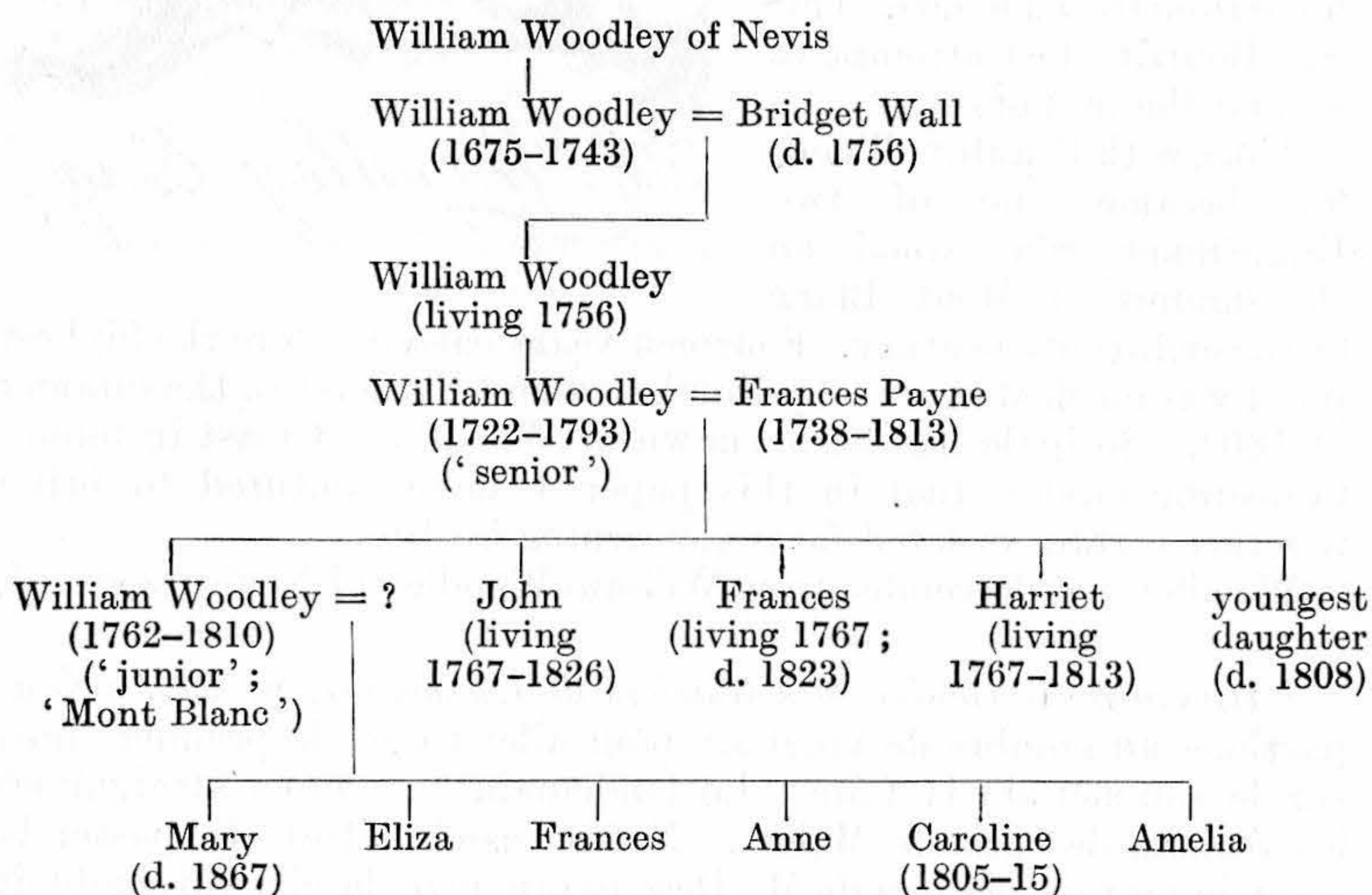


² *Itinéraire de Genève, des Glaciers de Chamouni*, p. 191, 'Nous partîmes au nombre de vingt-six pour aller passer la première nuit sur le sommet de la Côte. Le lendemain . . . nous atteignîmes les rochers des grands Mulets. Notre dessein étoit de passer la seconde nuit au plateau de M^r. Desaussure, mais la ciel qui sembloit nous menacer, nous engagea, à atteindre ce même jour le Mont-Blanc . . . M^r. Wodley rompit nos mesures, en nous devançant.'

³ *Loc cit.*, p. 195, 'Réunis enfin sous la tente, nous attendîmes l'Anglois et ses quatre guides ; l'on conçoit les reproches que j'avois à leur faire et que je leur aurois faites s'ils n'avoient pas de déjà porté la peine de leur imprudence . . . '

Caribbee Islands, who had two children living in 1678. The family arms are sable, a chevron between three owls argent; crest, an owl argent; identical with the arms of the Woodleys of Halsanger, county Devon. This William Woodley had a son William (1675–1743), of St. Christopher, who was the great-grandfather of William Woodley of Mont Blanc. His wife was Bridget Wall (d. 1756), of Nevis; and their son, William, was living in 1756. The latter had a son, also William (the father of Woodley of Mont Blanc), who matriculated from Queen's College, Oxford, April 21, 1738, being then sixteen years of age. He inherited the 'Profit' plantation in the Leeward Islands, and on March 30, 1758, married Frances Payne, posthumous and only surviving daughter of Abraham Payne, at St. George's, Hanover Square, London. They maintained a residence in Hill Street, Hanover Square, but for the most part lived in the Leeward Islands, where this Woodley achieved a distinguished political career.

The couple had five children—two sons and three daughters—the exact dates of their births being uncertain. Four of them, however, were living in 1767, the elder son, William, being the one who was later to ascend Mont Blanc. He was known as 'junior,' to distinguish him from his father whom we shall here designate as 'senior.' The confusing sequence of the various William Woodleys is made clear by reference to the following table:—



The following notes, arranged chronologically from V. L. Oliver's 'History of the Island of Antigua,' relate to William Woodley, senior :

1766. October 13. William Woodley appointed Captain-General, etc., *vice* Sir George Thomas, Bart., resigned. (Also *Gent. Mag.* p. 496.)

1768. William Woodley arrived at Antigua from England, leaving his family at home.

1770. August 26. Governor Woodley writes from (? Hendon) 'that he landed at Plimouth Saturday Sennight very gouty.' His next letter was from Hill Street [Hanover Square] on 16 November.

1791. September 21. William Woodley, now at St. Kitts, [reappointed] to be Captain-General, etc., *vice* Shirley resigned. (*Gent. Mag.*, p. 768).

1792. January 18. Governor Woodley has taken the 'Farm,' Dr. James Athill's, at £300 a year.

1793. June 12. John Stanley, Esq., President of St. Kitts, writes: Govr. Woodley died 2 June last at St. Kitts, and that he has taken on the government.

In Bloxworth Church, county Dorset, a tablet bears the following inscription: 'To the Memory of Frances Woodley [the mother of William Woodley, junior], widow of William / Woodley, esq., this monument was erected by Harriet Pickard as / a token of duty and affection to her beloved and lamented / mother, who died March 29, 1813, aged 75 years' (see Hutchins' 'Dorset,' i, 182).

Such was the ancestry of William Woodley, junior, as far as it can be traced in available records. Here follows what can be ascertained of the man himself:—

His birth in 1762 is attested in a brief paragraph in the *Gent. Mag.*: 'Jan. 23. Lady of Wm. Woodley, Esq.; member for Great Bedwin—of a son.' William Woodley, junior [*sic*], is mentioned in the indenture of two plantations at St. Kitts, June 6, 1771. On March 2, 1794, at a meeting of the General Council at St. Kitts, William Woodley was among those present. The Mont Blanc episode occurred in the interval between these last dates.

Woodley's own career in the Leeward Islands was troubled by a lawsuit against him, dated February 23, 1803, for recovery of £40,000, the complainant alleging 'great perversion of justice at St. Kitts' (Colonial Correspondence, Leeward Islands, vol. 40). Nothing unfavourable, however, seems to have resulted from this, for, on August 13, 1807, William Woodley, President of St. Kitts, writes that 'Lord Lavington died at Antigua on the 1st instant,' and he has taken on the government (List of Commanders-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands during the absence of the Captain-General and General-in-Chief).

Woodley was appointed Lieut.-Governor of Berbice, British Guiana,⁴ on November 6, 1808 (*Gent. Mag.*, p. 1183), and on April 7,

⁴ In 1781, British privateers took possession of the three colonies—Berbice, Demerara and Essequibo—which constitute the present British Guiana, and Lord Rodney placed them under the rule of the Governor of Barbados. The following year they were taken by the French, but were again in British hands from 1796 until the peace of Amiens in 1802, when they were returned to Holland.

1809, James Tyson, President of St. Kitts, now Commander-in-Chief, wrote that William Woodley left on March 15. Woodley, as Acting Governor, is recorded (1809) as having received a salary of £300.

Although Woodley married and had five daughters, he left no male heir, and died at Berbice in May, 1810 (*Gent. Mag.*, p. 500), being in his forty-ninth year. He was twenty-six years of age when he ascended Mont Blanc, the adventure, presumably, resulting from mere impulse in the course of youthful wanderings on the Continent.

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A.J. 25, 616; 30, 119.

J. MONROE THORINGTON.

B. FELLOWS AND HAWES, 1827.

THE Alpine Club has recently acquired a valuable and very interesting addition to its records of Alpine history in the shape of the original manuscript (unfortunately incomplete) and the corrected proofs of Sir Charles Fellows' work 'The Narrative of an Ascent to the Summit of Mont Blanc,' together with several cuttings from newspapers of that period giving detailed descriptions of the fifteenth ascent of Mont Blanc, made on July 25, 1827, by Charles Fellows and William Hawes. We may remind our readers that this party was the first to discover the safer route by the Corridor which, on subsequent ascents, superseded the route by the Ancien Passage. This acquisition included also a collection of letters written to Sir Charles Fellows by various friends to whom he had presented copies of his work which was printed in 1827 for private circulation only. Many of these letters bear signatures which are now celebrated in the early history of the ascent of the great mountain. Others are written by members of Charles Fellows' family, which appears to have been intensely proud of their young relative's achievements,

Taken again by the British in 1803 the colonies were held until formally ceded in 1814-15, following the close of the Napoleonic Wars.

and a large number come from friends amongst whom Fellows had made a very generous distribution of his work.

It may be of interest to quote from some of these letters, and it is but fitting that we should give priority to Fellows' companion, William Hawes, a youth aged twenty years, Fellows' own age being 28. His first letter (undated) refers in not quite impeccable French to a piece of stone, picked up on the highest rocks encountered during the ascent, which he sent in reply to a request by Fellows, and he proceeds in English as follows:—'I think when parting with so valuable a commodity, I ought to draw a hard bargain. How many *Extra* [mind this word] copies of our endeavours to obtain it, will you send me for it? You must, I assure you, be liberal, for I do not know a more pleasant occupation than making presents of that which cost you nothing.'

William Hawes gives the impression of a cheerful and humorous young companion. In another letter dated February 2, 1828, the insatiable youth writes to thank Mr. Fellows for his present and 'hopes in the course of a few days to send an account simply of the ascent without any embellishments. Your drawings will always be valuable and interesting to me, not only by recalling to my mind our adventures on that occasion but by reminding me of a tour accompanied by the author of them which I shall always look back to with pleasure. You know I am very difficult to please. As if I ought not to be satisfied with what you have already sent me, but I must ask for a little more. Can you spare me one or two of your original Sketches of the Ice, you know my favourites.'

Two letters are written by his father, Mr. Benjamin Hawes, who appears to harbour a grievance, and one letter runs as follows: 'I hope you will excuse my addressing you on a delicate subject. I assure you it is undesired and unknown to any one. On seeing your Title page on my Son's table on Monday night, it was remarked that "I thought that your son went up with Mr. Fellows," and last night in a party that I took your beautiful designs to, the same was remarked by everyone who, not knowing the intimacy and friendship between the Travellers, expressed their surprise. Permit me to suggest that it ought to be entitled *The Narrative of the Ascent of Mont Blanc by Charles Fellows with Wm. Hawes,*' and so on, to which Fellows sent the following somewhat unconvincing reply, of which there happens to be a copy in the collection:—

'I am obliged by the compliment you pay me in your letter of this morning by saying that you would wish your son's name with my own on the little book I am preparing—which I intended only for my friends and in style is only suited for that indulgent circle. Had I wished to have added the name of my fellow traveller to my first page I shouldn't have felt justified in so doing, knowing that he was preparing an account also which I expected long since to have seen, but I think even now he cannot like to acknowledge an account by allowing his name to be used without being aware of its contents, in fact as a joint work. The dedication to my mother

and the different feelings entertained by myself alone would be inconsistent as the expression of two parties. I have, of course, purposely mentioned your son's name in the short narrative, but from its want of interest and my inability to make proper use of my scanty materials I would willingly withdraw even my own from fear of the quiz of even dear friends. From the slight knowledge I have of your acquaintance I should fancy that this little work will scarcely fall into the hands of any mutual friends, my association being principally with the country.'

Another letter from him runs: 'Accept my Thanks for the elegant exhibition of your perilous travels. I congratulate you on the enchanting scenes you have seen and your fortunate deliverance from the Dangers that surrounded you.'

Benj. Hawes, Jnr., who published his brother William's account of the ascent, writes: 'What one can't buy one must beg. May I therefore solicit some of your lithographed drawings of the Scenery of Mont Blanc. I understand that you are going to have some coloured; now tho' beggars mustn't be choosers, I confess a copy of each when done would very greatly oblige me. I think you will allow that I have a legitimate interest in all concerning the adventure and which perhaps may pass as my apology for the favour I seek.'

B. Hawes, Jnr., also writes his thanks for the handsome present of the 'Narrative,' and will soon have an opportunity of making an attempt to repay in kind, as their long-promised work will, as Mr. Murray says, be published in a few days.

This, of course, refers to the account by William Hawes of his ascent with Fellows of Mont Blanc which was published by his brother Benjamin in 1828.

It would appear that Fellows coloured some of his lithographs, which I think is not generally known, and it would be interesting to discover whether any of these are still in existence.⁵

⁵ Mr. Spencer may be interested in knowing that I have the copy of Fellows' narrative with a presentation inscription to William Hawes. All the plates, including 'Mont Blanc from the Breven' and the title-vignette, are in colour. This copy seems to be the one used by Hawes as an assistance in the preparation of his own account. At least, there are numerous words and passages underlined, and there are half-erased marginal pencil notes, several in shorthand.

I also mention again the item sold by Maggs a few years ago. It was described as follows:—

'The Author's Own Copy with Original Drawings, etc.

Of unique interest, being the Author's (Fellows) own copy, in which are inserted:—

1. Two sets of the plates.

(a) Plain.

(b) Beautifully coloured.



Markham Sherwell

Author of "Letters" giving an account of his ascent to the summit of Mont-Blanc, in 1825, and of "the History of the Valley of Chamouni." &c.

Drawn on Stone by G.P. Harding, from a Sketch by L. Alegre.

[To face p. 315.]

Frederick Clissold, who made the twelfth ascent, sends a somewhat formal acknowledgment making a request to be permitted to call on the author—indicating that they had not yet met. He begs Mr. Fellows to do him the pleasure of accepting his narrative.

Markham Sherwill, who ascended Mont Blanc three years later (accompanied by Dr. Edmund Clark), appears to have received an extra copy of the work to which he has, at the author's request, added 'some dry observations on the page pencilled with my name and wish they had been somewhat more acceptable than I fear you will find them.' This letter is dated 1836, which indicates that Fellows' gift was somewhat belated in this instance.

In this collection of letters a lithograph portrait of Markham Sherwill is enclosed which we cannot remember having seen or heard of previously. It is reproduced with this article.

Dr. Edmund Clark expresses his thanks for the 'elegant volume,' and, being evidently of a convivial nature, hoped to see Mr. Fellows later to draw a 'cork' of champagne for him.

The celebrated artist, Mr. (afterwards Sir) David Wilkie, who was in Chamonix at the time of the ascent, presents his compliments to Mr. Fellows and feels much obliged by his thinking of him by the present of his volume descriptive of his interesting journey. The copy 'so superbly bound' (presumably a second copy) he returns to him, having, at his request, put in a few sentences bearing testimony as an eyewitness to his ascent to the summit of Mont Blanc.

John Auldjo, who made the ascent on August 9, 1827, that is, about a fortnight after Fellows and Hawes, writes:—

'I return you your book with a page scribbled over by your humble servant but it will disgrace the rest of the volume: however, such as the opinion or rather observation is, you are welcome to it, and I am sorry it is not more worthy of the corner you have allotted to it.'

This must refer to an extra copy, which would be an interesting one to possess.

William Brockedon writes a short formal letter of thanks for sending him a copy of the 'very interesting work.'

2. Fifteen beautifully executed Original Drawings, mostly highly finished in Water-Colours (these including the original drawings from which the illustrations were made).

3. The Original Certificate of the Ascent, signed by the eight guides.

4. Autograph remarks on the Ascent by famous Alpinists, viz. Dr. F. J. Clark, Frederick Clissold, John Auldjo, William Hawes, David Wilkie, Markham Sherwill—each occupying a full 4to page.

5. Manuscript poem by John W. Burjon, "To Charles Fellows on reading his 'Ascent of Mont Blanc.'"

I tried to secure this item, but it was already sold.

J. MONROE THORINGTON.

There is a letter from Albert Smith (undated, but probably written about the date of his own ascent in 1851) thanking Sir Charles Fellows very much for his interesting book which he is very proud to add to his Mont Blanc shelf. Another letter from Albert Smith is interesting owing to its bearing his official stamp with a picture of Mont Blanc in relief, apparently used in connection with his entertainment.

A letter from Dr. Hamel, who was one of the recipients of the book, is unfortunately missing from the collection.

We come then to the letters from the admiring family whose pride in their youthful relative's feat is very comprehensible, for it must be remembered that in those days an ascent of Mont Blanc was a great achievement and probably occupied a similar place in the eyes of the general public to that which Mount Everest does at the present day.

Fellows' mother writes a short and touching letter:—

'I accept your Dedication with the sincerest affection towards you and gratitude to Heaven for your preservation through so hazardous an undertaking.'

It is easy to imagine Mrs. Fellows' anxiety, and the thankful relief when she learnt of the successful termination to her son's enterprise.

T. Fellows, presumably an uncle, writes to congratulate our hero on his escape from Mont Blanc and his safe arrival at home, and begs to thank him for the present of the Book, which has convinced him that he ought not to undertake such a journey at his time of life.

His brother Alfred writes: 'Let me congratulate you on the successful manner in which you have finished the narrative of your ascent to Mt. Blanc: the sketches speak volumes and the volume *speaks wonders*; I accompanied you up with all the anxious interest of a traveller and welcomed you down with the affection of a brother in your narrow escape from the perils of so mad an enterprise.'

Another brother, Edward, expresses himself thus:—

'It is not your ambitious views in wishing to rise so high above the rest of the World that I admire most in your Work but 'tis your extreme modesty in depicting your dangers and which attribute at once makes me feel it must be a Brother of my order who writes.

'I remember the time when we used to be proud of our elder Brother John's valour when he won a Red Coat, but yours far exceeds his and claims a greater share of pride from

'Your ever affectionate Brother.'

James, possibly a younger brother, had a sense of humour:—

'I have received your very valuable present and beg to return you my best thanks for so acceptable a gift. You have indeed purchased the *right* to be conceited and proud. I am sure you must feel (*right* or wrong) as the feeling may be of being entitled to the

praise of your numerous friends whom you have obliged and in a manner in which you can have no competition.

‘ I believe you are the first author (in print) of the Family though it is not your first attempt, for do you not remember writing and printing

‘ And the Parrots in their Cage
And the Lions in their rage
And etc., etc.

‘ I congratulate you most sincerely on your success and improvement.’

J. M. Fellows, whom I suspect of being brother John, says : ‘ I am very much obliged by your book which I shall always consider a treasure. There is one thing which rather annoys me. I really am proud of calling one of my Brothers an Author but at the same time always take some credit to myself for having been the first that shook the first fruits of your genius out in the form of a Tour to Town. Now you are certainly passing this Mountain Tour off to the World as your first—but I have got the Book and will pocket the affront.’

There are letters in similar strain from his sisters Emma Fellows and Mrs. Pearson, who writes that she is sure that all his family love him too much to wish him ever again to attempt an undertaking of similar danger.

A Mrs. Harmerie, evidently an intimate friend of the family, congratulates Charles Fellows on his safe return from so hazardous an enterprise : ‘ It was only yesterday I read a most circumstantial account of your proceedings and shuddered while I read. Good God ! What you must have suffered—and there must have been times when you would have given I should think, all you had in the world, not to have undertaken it.’

A cousin, A. H. Copeman by name, writes in this strain : ‘ I had no idea of its dangers till I saw your account and your drawings of the cliffs, chasms and *horrible places* you had to encounter on the mighty Mont Blanc. My greatest wonder is that you could possibly get down again live and well.’

A friend named George Wilkins, after complimenting Fellows on his ‘ elegant publication,’ proceeds to criticise his English : ‘ There is an awkward expression at the bottom of page 21. “ The air is ascertained to be little more than half the density of *which it is in the Valleys*,” instead of “ little more than half the density of that in the vallies.” There is also an ambiguity on page 24. “ We could not but admire, &c., &c.” ’

It is interesting to note that the plates in the copy sent to Mr. Wilkins were coloured.⁶ This is apparently exceptional. A copy

⁶ Another copy with coloured plates, which was presented to William Hawes, is in the possession of Dr. J. Monroe Thorington.—*A.J.* 38, 195.

with coloured plates was also sent to another friend, Mr. Edwin Field.

Mrs. Lucy Stone writes: 'I rejoice with your friends that you escaped the many dangers you encountered and hope for their sake you will never again put your life in such peril.'

Mr. William Needham takes Fellows to task: 'I doubt much whether your kind warning at the end of the book will have the effect intended. If, on the contrary, your narrative should have an opposite tendency and any rash young man should lose his life in attempting to follow your example, you will indeed have much to answer for and will of course consider yourself as guilty at least of manslaughter.'

What would Mr. Needham have had to say to the reckless, many of them unpardonably so, climbs of the present day?

Mark Philips adopts a more bantering tone: 'You are quite right in saying that there is nothing like travelling *en garçon*. Had you been married, depend upon it, you had never seen the top of Mont Blanc. I have yet to see Switzerland, but I shall not dispute with you the honour of an ascent. The bedroom at the Grands Mulets would do my business; it would kill me at once.'

Mrs. Shaw thanks 'Mr. Charles Fellows for his very flattering remembrance of her in presenting her with his most interesting narrative of a most perilous adventure. The drawings are terrifically beautiful.'

Mr. B. G. Babington (whose copy is in possession of the Club) writes: 'From no account which I have yet read, have I obtained so clear a conception of the difficulties and dangers of ascending Mont Blanc as yours.'

The Duke of Newcastle, to whom a copy was sent at the request of a friend, is very complimentary. 'It is remarkably, accurately, and well written, the modesty and total absence of affectation throughout proves the merit of the writer, the style, in my opinion, is of the very best and the whole characterises the taste and judgment of the author.'

Mr. G. F. Pennington read the narrative with much pleasure, but 'shall be easily tempted to walk up Mont Blanc again with so excellent a guide.'

There are about fifty other letters from his friends, all written in the same strain and in the quaintly formal language of that period.

The original account of the 'Narrative' is set out in a copy-book from which Fellows evidently copied out the manuscript for the printers with certain variations in the text. Part of the latter is unfortunately missing, but as the account in the copy-book is complete, this is not of great importance, as the narratives in both are practically identical.

SYDNEY SPENCER.