

## EXCURSIONS AND NOTES.

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THIS conspicuous Kincardineshire summit was the goal  
KERLOCH. of the Club's Autumnal Excursion on 24th September,  
1894. Although but 1747 feet high, Kerloch overtops  
every eminence to the east, and so commands wide prospects to south,  
east, and north. The Lammermuirs, seventy-five miles southward, are  
visible, and under favourable conditions it might perhaps be possible,  
over the pass between Morven and Ben Avon, to obtain a glimpse  
of the lofty and still more distant range which, north of Strath Farrar,  
bounds the counties of Inverness and Ross. Our party (which included  
several ladies) travelled by the 7:40 N.B. train from Aberdeen to  
Stonehaven, thence driving by the Slug road to Temple, a halt being  
made *en route* to visit the site of the Caledonian Camp at Raedykes.  
From Temple, three miles by the left bank of Cowie Water brought  
our carriages to Hobseat, a small shooting-box, where the hill walk  
began. Keeping by the left bank of the stream until it is crossed by  
the easterly track from Glenbervie to Strachan, half a mile of this  
path brought us to the watershed between Cowie and Dee, near to the  
spot where, as shown by a three-sided march stone (bearing the letters  
M, D, and S), three estates meet at a point, as well as three parishes—  
Glenbervie, Durris, and Strachan. A little farther on we crossed the  
Burn of Sheeoch, and, leaving North Dennetys (1208) on the left, we  
made straight for our goal, which we reached after an easy walk of  
three hours from Hobseat. The sky was bright and the near prospect  
clear. To the north the tops of Bennachie rose dark over the Hill of  
Fare, while Banchory and Strachan, with the stook-covered fields on  
Feughside, gave warmth and brightness to the foreground. South-  
wards was Auchinblae, with the Howe of the Mearns stretching to the  
sea. To the west the most prominent peak was the near Clochnaben,  
its rocky protuberance here seen at its summit rather than on its  
shoulder, Mount Battock appearing on the left, and the more distant  
Mount Keen close on the right. Lochnagar was hidden in haze, and  
the Cairngorms, with the possible exception of Ben Avon, were alike  
invisible. Ben Rinnes, Buck of Cabrach, and Tap o' Noth brought  
round the panorama to Bennachie again. Not the least striking scene  
was towards the City of Aberdeen, in the neighbourhood of which  
many lofty landmarks, from the lighthouse at Girdleness to the  
Mitchell Tower of Marischal College, were not hard to find with  
the unaided eye, while with telescope or binocular one could count the  
spires and even identify individual buildings nineteen miles away.

After half an hour on the top, and with a final glance at the  
odd little moss tarn which almost crowns Little Kerloch, we descended  
into the basin of the Builg Burn, fording that stream after a walk



of about two miles. Two miles more by Heatheryhaugh and Mainhaugh brought us to Bridge of Dye on the famous old Cairn o' Mount road. With the help of the carriages there waiting us, we soon left behind us the grounds of Glendye Lodge, forded the Burns of Brooky and Greendams; and, after driving along the most ticklish carriage road in the county, we found ourselves at Feughside Inn, our station at the Club's Mount Battock Excursion two years before. After an excellent dinner—our Chairman, Professor Cameron, presiding—we re-entered the carriages for Banchory, reaching Aberdeen a little before nine o'clock.—THOMAS KYD.

ON Wednesday, 8th August last, a party of ten (five of whom were ladies) left Grantown at 11:30 p.m. and CAIRNGORM. drove to Glenmore Lodge, which was reached about two o'clock next morning. The weather then was very pleasant, and all wraps, &c., were left behind when the start for the hill was made at 2:30. The cairn, however, was not reached till 9:0. Three hours were thereafter pleasantly spent in the vicinity, some of the party descending on Loch Avon. But about noon a sudden change came over the face of nature, and the young mountaineers found themselves enveloped in a dense mist. Consternation seized the pithless party, which soon became utterly bewildered; all sense of direction was lost—not one had had the forethought to bring either map or compass. Aimlessly wandering about they came on a snowfield, which, not observed in the ascent, completed their demoralisation. Suddenly they were faced by two Aberdonians, who also having made the ascent that day from Glen More, were now (1:30) on their way down. They, however, had but a slight knowledge of the titular peak of the Cairngorms, and were not by any means qualified guides in such a contingency. Spite of all efforts the combined party were not successful in putting the summit much behind them—they had walked in a circle, for 5:30 found them once more at the cairn. By this time the weather had changed still more to the bad—a heavy penetrating rain with a piercing wind had now to be faced. The ladies were but lightly clad, and their condition therefore can easily be imagined. The gentlemen literally parted their vests among them, but even then their condition was pitiable in the extreme. Lack of food added to their troubles, which were still further intensified when some of the ladies fainted, others lying down utterly helpless. A supreme effort was made to get down—down anywhere—and the two Aberdonians with one of the ladies and a gentleman finally left the others, reaching Glenmore Lodge about 8 p.m. Mr. Hector M'Kenzie, with another forester and the Grantown gentleman, at once proceeded to the assistance of the eight left on the hill. These were found "packed in a hole at the top of a burn" about 11:0, a little to the east of the cairn, at an altitude of about 3800 feet, in such a condition that but for the assistance thus rendered the result would have been fatal—Mr. M'Kenzie being "of the opinion that



the whole eight of them would have perished if they had not been found then". The night was a very dark one, and for that reason, as well as on account of the nature of the ground and the helplessness of the excursionists, it was not till 4.0 a.m. (Friday) that the first lot reached the lodge, the last (a lady) being carried there at seven o'clock. It was 3 p.m. (Friday) before she regained consciousness, everything being a blank to her from 2 p.m. the previous day. It would be difficult to imagine a more badly equipped or a more mismanaged hill excursion from start to finish than the above.—CHARLES M'HARDY.

FATAL                   MR. JOHN MITCHELL, assistant editor of the "New  
ACCIDENT           English Dictionary", was killed on 30th August last  
ON                   while climbing the Capel Curig side of Snowdon. He  
SNOWDON.       was fond of climbing, and had experience in the Lake  
                      district and other parts. A party of eleven left Pen-y-  
                      gwryd about 11 a.m., and walked together to the foot

of Lliwydd. The deceased had expressed his intention to proceed up a gully in a slanting direction to the top of Lliwydd. According to one of the witnesses at the inquest, having reached the foot of Lliwydd, five of the party sat on the grass, and three others, including the witness, accompanied Mitchell for some 300 feet further. He invited them to accompany him, but all declined, owing to the precipitous state of the rock, and one of the party tried to dissuade him from attempting it himself. The deceased, however, made no answer, as he had clearly made up his mind to climb. He had no climbing apparatus except boots. He had reached a height of about 400 feet above where his friends stood when he was seen to slip. For some time previously he had been clearing the ground of moss, and endeavouring to get a good hold. He reached his hand towards a rock, which was almost overhanging, and lifted his foot in the same direction; but in consequence of losing his hold, or of a stone giving way under him, he slipped and fell on one side, and then the witness lost sight of him. As the result of the disturbance above the stones came down the gully. Finding that they could be of no assistance, as the place where the deceased lay was quite inaccessible, the witness and his friends proceeded to Pen-y-gwryd, by which time darkness had set in. None of the party had any doubt as to death being instantaneous, as the fall measured about 150 feet. The accident took place about five o'clock. Another witness stated that he watched the deceased's progress nearly the whole of the climb, the first part of which he covered without difficulty. When, however, he reached the gully he seemed to have stuck there, and in witness's opinion he could not have returned. He occasionally was obscured from view. The witness afterwards saw him fall along the gully some 50 feet. He came down head foremost, with his arms stretched outward and his feet in the air. The fall was such that the party were convinced that death was instantaneous, and owing to the mist it was deemed useless to try to recover the body that night. Information was given at Pen-y-



gwryd, and the Llanberis police were communicated with, arrangements being also made with the foreman of the Snowdon Mines, situated close by, for the formation of a search party on the following morning. A party of these men went up on Friday morning, and by means of ropes they, at the risk of endangering their own lives, passed down the body, which was afterwards conveyed to Llanberis.—

WILLIAM SMITH.

THE Aberdeenshire Amateur Photographic Society  
CAIRNGORM gave, on 28th November last, in the Music Hall Build-  
LANTERN ings, Aberdeen, a Limelight Exhibition, under the  
SLIDES. presidency of Professor Cameron, D.D., Chairman of  
the Cairngorm Club. One hundred and twenty ex-  
cellent slides were put on the screen illustrative of the Cairngorm  
district. The views were shown in the following order :—(1) Ballater  
to Glen Derry ; (2) Up Glen Avon ; (3) A Day in Glen More ; (4) An  
Excursion to Ben Bynac ; (5) Two Days on Cairngorm—Summer and  
Winter ; (6) Ben Muich Dhui ; (7) Cairn Toul ; (8) Braeriach.

MICHEL the famous Russian traveller, has accomplished extra-  
DE ordinary distances on foot, St. Petersburg to Paris  
BERNOFF, being little more than a stroll to him. Concerning  
boots he says :—“I always, when walking, wear loose  
Russia-leather greased boots, and, in lieu of socks or  
stockings, bands of linen wound round and round my feet. In bitterly  
cold weather I line my boots with pieces of newspapers, for nothing  
keeps one so warm”. As to eating and drinking he contends that “a  
pedestrian should take example of the birds, eat little and often. I  
find chocolate very sustaining ; of meat I take hardly any, but fruit I  
delight in, and milk is the best of all walking food. I neither smoke  
nor drink. When in Bavaria I was occasionally tempted to take  
a glass of good German beer, but it knocked me up utterly, and I soon  
had to give it up. Always walk on pure water or milk. I consider  
thirty miles a day a very fair average”.

Speaking of boots reminds us of boot-trees. Mr. W. J. Yapp, 200  
Sloane Street, London, S.W., has sent us a specimen pair of the “Pack-  
flat Boot-tree”. Its weight is under 10 ozs., and, made in aluminium  
and steel, the price is 10s. 6d. per pair. Practically it takes up no  
room ; its advantages to the mountaineer are obvious. The patent  
anticipates a somewhat similar idea which a member of the Club has  
had simmering in his mind for several years.

ALPINE A SWISS paper states that the number of accidents last  
ACCIDENTS season has been unusually large ; 52 was the total  
IN 1894. number of deaths, and the number of serious, but not  
fatal, accidents was 13 since the 1st July. In the  
Swiss Alps alone there were no fewer than 33 fatal  
accidents and 7 cases of injury. Four persons who essayed to climb the



mountains have not been heard of since, having probably fallen over some precipice, and can for a certainty be included in the list of dead. The mountains of Austria, Bavaria, Italy, and France each have their share in the fatal list.

## REVIEWS.

by Mr. W. P. Haskett Smith, illustrated by Mr. E. CLIMBING Carr (London: Longmans, Green, & Co. Price 3s. 6d.), IN THE is the first of a series, other two volumes—II. Wales BRITISH ISLES: and III. Scotland—being announced as in preparation.

*England*—Interest therefore in the present volume is increased by our anxiety in Scotland to know how “the land of the mountain” is likely to be treated. Vol. I. is a well turned-out production, its appearance being a credit to all concerned. The author writes as one thoroughly at home in his subject, addressing himself to “mountaineers” in the more restricted meaning of the word. England, however, must be pitied for the miserable shifts for “sport” Mr. Haskett Smith has often to find for his disciples. It is amusing to note the minuteness with which certain rocks are described, chalk cliffs even receiving notice. There must needs be a sad lack of balance when the proposed three volumes are completed, if Scotland is to be similarly dealt with.

The book is all index, and therefore presents a certain convenience for reference which would have been improved if the system had been adopted of placing sections of the main subjects under sub-headings. The author and artist are not always at one—to a foot—as to heights, but this is a small matter. The volume is still another evidence of the extraordinary progress mountaineering has been recently making, though “the dominant partner” is so deficient in climbing ground.

for September, 1894, commences with No. II. of THE SCOTTISH the Rise and Progress of Mountaineering in Scot- MOUNTAINEERING land, Thomas Pennant being treated of by Pro- CLUB JOURNAL fessor Veitch, who, alas, did not live to see his article in type. The Professor was President of the Club, and, eminent as a poet and essayist, his death has been generally regretted. The other articles are on Sgurr na Lapaich and Riabhachan, Beinn an Dothaidh, &c., Leagach, Scottish Mountain Botany, Ben Lomond, and the Divine Mysteries of the Oromaniacal Quest. The latter is a new and welcome departure in mountaineering articles; the quaint humour of its style is most refreshing.

by the Rev. James Paul (Brechin: D. H. Edwards), UP GLENESK, “is not a guide to Glenesk”, but that fact will not detract from its value to lovers of Highland glens generally and of the valley of the North Esk in particular. Opening



with "Glenesk in fact and legend", the neatly got-up little hand-book (though the printer has not confined himself to one paper-mill) treats of the glen from a historical, biographical, and poetical standpoint. Considerable selections from unpublished MSS. of Alexander Ross, author of "Helenore, or the Fortunate Shepherdess", are given.

is the title of the Guide to the West Highland Railway (London: Sir Joseph Clauston & Sons. Price, 2s.).

**MOUNTAIN** It is a handsome volume of 180 pages, with no less than

**MOOR** 230 illustrations from original drawings made on the

**AND LOCH** spot. Many of the illustrations are artistic gems, pictures that will delight the mountaineer, though the book has not been written for him. The opening of the railway from Glasgow to Fort-William affords great facilities to hillmen, and renders many mountains readily accessible that formerly required considerable time and pains to approach within climbing distance. The letterpress is very pleasant reading, as it quite lacks the ordinary guide-book style. The writer does not confine himself to the immediate vicinity of the railway, but diverges when sufficiently tempted, and the divergences will be found very agreeable. The price of the work is really nominal.

by Mr. John Mackintosh, LL.D. (Aberdeen: Taylor  
**HISTORY OF** and Henderson. Price, 3s. 6d.), is the latest addition  
**THE VALLEY** to the literature of the Royal Dee. Dr. Mackintosh is  
**OF THE DEE,** a proved writer of Scottish history, and the present  
 volume, which treats of Deeside history "from the  
 earliest times to the present day", is certain of a cordial reception. The writer states that "the widest region of the wildest scenery in Britain" is to be found "between Glen Feshie and Glen Quoich", a statement that Cairngormers will not feel disposed to dispute. He is one of the few writers who have grasped the position of the sources of the Dee; very properly ignoring the Pools, he credits Braeriach, Ben Muich Dhui, and Cairn Toul (in the order named), as giving birth to the Aberdeenshire river. But we are inclined to demur to the assertion that the golden eagle "is now rarely seen and seems to have ceased breeding" in the high solitudes of the Dee. The "History" is capitally printed, and is prefixed by a life-like portrait of the author.