

Perils of the Matterhorn.

About thirty years ago the Matterhorn was for the first time successfully ascended by man, so far as is known. A dreadful accident attended that ascent. The party consisted of seven men, led by the famous Alpine climber, Edward Whymper, four of whom were lost. This was Mr. Whymper's ninth attempt to ascend. The thrilling description which Mr. Garrett P. Serviss gives of this occurrence, in McClure's Magazine for September, works one up to the proper mood for hearing the narrative of his own hazardous climb, about a year ago. Passing over the preliminary obstacles, we launch the reader, says the Literary Digest, from which we copy, at once upon the dangerous trail of the adventurous climber:

"Higher, we left the face of the mountain and got upon the crest of the arête. Here were places where one had to balance himself carefully, while the fatigue resulting from the constant use of every limb did not, to say the least, increase one's control over his muscles. It is a simple matter to stand on a ledge only a few inches broad, when it is near the ground; but put your ledge above cloud level, get up upon it out of breath, let void space yawn round your feet and recollect that it is only the friction of your fingers against the projecting rocks beside you and above your head that retains you where you are, and you will find that a very entertaining metaphysical element has entered into the problem of how to keep the center of gravity within the base. 'Where is the worst place?' I inquired several times. 'Not yet, not yet,' was the reply; 'the Shoulder is the worst.'

"Every visitor to Zermatt will remember seeing a curious knob near the middle of the upper part of the Matterhorn, which appears to project from the side of the mountain, being dark underneath and white with snow on top. The guides call this the 'Shoulder.' It is a fearful spot. We approached it by ascending a steep slope of snow resting upon ice which, in turn, lay upon rock that seemed too smooth to hold it. Having clambered upon the end of the Shoulder overhanging the tremendous precipice seen from Zermatt, we were compelled to turn to the left, for ahead of us everything dropped out of sight. This maneuver brought us upon something that I can only describe as a great knife edge of the mountain, rising sheer out of precipitous depths, and connecting the arête we had just quitted with the main mass of the upper part of the peak. This marvelous ridge, which is also a portion of the Shoulder, is composed of broken rock cemented with ice, and tipped with scallops of snow as translucent as porcelain and beautifully moulded by the wind. The rock on the top was in some places but a few inches wide, and the hard snow capping it ran to a sharp edge, and had frequently to be broken off in order to make room for the hands and feet. Sometimes on my feet, sometimes on hands and knees, and sometimes astride I got across."

One of the perils of the Matterhorn comes from falling rocks. This danger is spoken of by Mr. Serviss in his account of nearing the summit. Of the falling rocks he says:

"Starting high aloft, they can find no stopping place. Their first touch is like the crack of a gun; the second is an explosion. In great parabolic curves they leap and soar until they burst into shivers. There is nowhere so magnificent an object lesson in the law of gravitation as that presented by these falling stones of the Matterhorn. Above the Shoulder we came upon one of the most perilous localities for falling rocks, and hurried over it, yet none fell while we were there. More than once, when, completely out of breath with the unaccustomed exertions I had put forth, I begged for a moment's respite to recover my wind, the guides would not allow a pause, saying that a shower of stones might assail us at any instant."

"The arrival on the summit was as sensational an experience as any one could wish for. We had got upon another spindling ridge as narrow as that at the Shoulder, and pieces of its frostwork cornice fell at a touch and shot downward in a manner that made one exceedingly careful of his footsteps. The precipice under this ridge, on the left hand side, was not merely vertical, it absolutely overhung; and the necessity of caution kept my attention fixed upon the work immediately in hand, so that before I was fully aware how near we were to the end I suddenly heard Taugwalder shout, 'The top!' 'Yes monsieur; the top!' called out Garven behind me. I took three steps, and another would have sent me whirling six thousand feet down into Italy!"

Mr. Serviss says that even the most experienced guide cannot enter lightly upon a descent from the Matterhorn, and that for a beginner the mere idea of going down some of the places ascended is a thing to be banished from the mind as quickly as possible. The cheerfulness of the situation was not enhanced for him by the fact that during the latter half of the climb he had been suffering from "mountain sickness," which he says is as hard an ill to bear as sea-sickness, but luckily it does not affect the head, or did not in his case. He thinks if it had done so he should have been unable to proceed, "for on the Matterhorn vertigo is entirely inadmissible. If you cannot stand unmoved with your toes over the margin of

a precipice, you have no business there." And now for the descent: "Carefully treading once more the snow-topped ridge, we began the descent. Its worst feature immediately became manifest: the eyes could no longer avoid the vacuity that gaped beneath us. Taugwalder, in virtue of his greater experience now assumed the last place, where he could lend the most effective aid if a slip occurred; I remained in the middle and Graven led. Theoretical, and I believe practically as well, the rope by which one is fastened to his guides is an assurance of comparative safety for all three; yet there were many points where I could not help wondering whether, if I should slip, Taugwalder, man of iron though he was, would not come tumbling after me, and where I was morally certain that if one of the others fell, I should go along with him into the depths. Fortunately there was no test case; I did not make a mistake or a slip at any critical point. In the most dangerous places only one person moved at a time. The leading guide went on until he was so placed that he could get a good grip on the rocks, or a safe hold with his ice axe. Then I followed and took his place, while he pushed on to another holding, and then the last man joined me, and it became my turn to move again.

"It was with a peculiar sensation that one approached the verge of a precipice, and, turning on his face, began to let himself down backward, feeling with his toes for ledges that he could not see, and that might not exceed a fraction of an inch in width, but to which he must entrust as much of his weight as his fingers, clutching similar projections above, were unable to support, while with one leg dangling he reached down for another precarious foothold. And whenever he glanced behind his body and the rock to see what his feet were about he caught a thrilling glimpse of precipice below and crag under crag, whose plaything he would become if his head dizzied, his eyes swam or his muscles refused instantly to perform their whole duty. Such are some of the joys of the Matterhorn! I do not say it mockingly; I am giving a record of psychological impressions, and these things, like any mastering of human weakness, are a joy in recollection. Burke proved that terror is a source of the sublime, and sublimity is certainly a source of joy."

Kingston Exhibition.

The Annual Exhibition of Kingston Kent Agricultural Society was held on the 9th inst., the stock being exhibited in Wm. Brait's field, and the grain, vegetables, &c., being shown in the New Public Hall. There was upwards of 200 entries. The grain shown was remarkably heavy, black oats weighing 44½ pounds per bushel and wheat 55½ pounds. Following is a list of prize winners:—

- CLASS No. 1. Stallions, 4 yrs. old and up, Carriage,—1st, John Robertson. Draught,—1st, Wm. Ward. General Purpose,—1st, Jas. Conway. Registered Stallion, 3 yrs. old,—1st, Alex. Carson.

- CLASS 2. Breeding Mare, bred this season, Draught,—1st, Wm. Jardine; 2nd, Jas. Conway; 3rd, R. Law. Carriage,—1st, Wm. Jardine; 2nd, Wm. Jardine; 3rd, Wm. Jardine. Draught Foal,—1st, R. Law. Carriage Foal,—1st, Wm. Jardine; 2nd, Wm. Jardine; 3rd, R. Lennox.

- CLASS 3. Pure Bred Draught Mare,—1st, Wm. Brait. Pure Bred Carriage Mare,—1st, Wm. Jardine.

- CLASS 4. Mare or Gelding 4 years old and up, Draught,—1st, Wm. Jardine; 2nd, Wm. Jardine; 3rd, A. McNairn. Mare or Gelding 3 yrs. old, Draught,—1st, Wm. Jardine. Mare or Gelding 3 yrs. old, Carriage,—1st, R. Main; 2nd, R. Clark; 3rd, A. McNairn. Mare or Gelding 2 yrs. old, Draught,—1st, A. Dixon, Jr. Mare or Gelding 2 yrs. old, Carriage,—1st, R. Lennox; 2nd, M. McKinnon; 3rd, J. Kennedy, Jr. Mare or Gelding 1 year old, Draught,—1st, Jas. Conway; 2nd, D. J. Mundle. Mare or Gelding 1 year old, Carriage,—1st, Jas. Jardine; 2nd, A. Dixon, Jr.; 3rd, Wm. Jardine.

- CLASS 5. Pure Bred Ayrshire Bull,—1st, Wm. Jardine. Pure Bred Ayrshire Cow,—1st, R. Law; 2nd, Wm. Jardine; 3rd, Wm. Jardine. Pure Bred Ayrshire Heifer, 2 yrs. old,—1st, Wm. Jardine; 2nd, Wm. Jardine. Pure Bred Ayrshire Heifer, 1 year old,—1st, J. Robertson; 2nd, Wm. Jardine. Pure Bred Ayrshire Calf,—1st, Wm. Jardine; 2nd, R. Law; 3rd, Wm. Jardine. Pure Bred Ayrshire Bull Calf,—1st, Wm. Jardine.

- CLASS 6. Common Milch Cow,—1st, R. Lennox; 2nd, J. P. S. Peters; 3rd, R. Little. Common Heifer, 2 yrs. old,—1st, F. S. Peters; 2nd, M. McKinnon; 3rd, M. McKinnon. Common Heifer, 1 year old,—1st, F. S. Peters; 2nd, A. McNairn; 3rd, F. S. Peters. Common Heifer Calf,—1st, F. S. Peters; 2nd, F. S. Peters; 3rd, A. McNairn. Common Steer, 3 yrs. old,—1st, W. Main. Common Steer, 2 yrs. old,—1st, W. Main; 2nd, A. Dixon. Common Steer, 1 year old,—1st, R. Law. Common Steer Calf,—1st, Jas. Conway.

- CLASS 7. Pure Bred Ram,—1st, A. McNairn. Ram Lamb,—1st, A. McNairn. Ewe, 2 yrs. old,—1st, A. Beattie; 2nd, W. Kennedy; 3rd, M. McKinnon. Ewe 1 year old,—1st, A. Dixon, Jr.; 2nd, M. McKinnon; 3rd, A. Beattie. Ewe Lamb,—1st, John Kennedy; 2nd, John Kennedy; 3rd, A. McNairn.

- CLASS 8. Boar Pig, 1 year old,—1st, D. J. Mundle; 2nd, Wm. Jardine. Spring Boar,—1st, A. Dixon; 2nd, W. Jardine; 3rd, D. J. Mundle. Sow, bred this spring,—1st, D. J. Mundle; 2nd, D. J. Mundle. Sow, this spring,—1st, A. Beattie; 2nd, R. Law.

- CLASS 9. Timothy Seed,—1st, Wm. Main; 2nd, A. Dixon, Jr. Wheat,—1st, R. Lennox; 2nd, A. Beattie; 3rd, R. Law. Buckwheat,—1st, Wm. Main; 2nd, A. Dixon; 3rd, R. Law. Black oats,—1st, A. McNairn; 2nd, A. Dixon, Jr.; 3rd, R. Little. White oats,—1st, Wm. Main; 2nd, R. Little. Peas,—1st, F. S. Peters; 2nd, Wm. Kennedy. Barley,—1st, R. Little. Potatoes, any variety,—1st, R. Clark; 2nd, R. Law; 3rd, W. Kennedy. Potatoes, Silver Dollars,—1st, R. Clark; 2nd, A. Dixon, Jr.; 3rd, R. Law. Potatoes, Prolifics,—1st, A. McNairn. Potatoes, Early Rose,—1st, A. Dixon, Jr.; 2nd, R. Lennox; 3rd, R. Clark. Potatoes, Beauty of Hebron,—1st, Wm. Kennedy; 2nd, A. Dixon, Jr.; 3rd, A. McNairn.

- Aberdeen turnips,—1st, Wm. Main; 2nd, R. Law; 3rd, A. Dixon, Jr. Swede turnips,—1st, R. Lennox; 2nd, J. Robertson; 3rd, R. Clark. Mangel Wurtzel,—1st, W. Jardine; 2nd, F. S. Peters; 3rd, R. Law. Long Blood beet,—1st, F. S. Peters. Turnip beet,—1st, R. Lennox; 2nd, A. Dixon, Jr.; 3rd, John Robertson. Field carrots,—1st, W. Jardine; 2nd, F. S. Peters; 3rd, R. Law. Table carrot,—1st, W. Jardine; 2nd, D. J. Mundle; 3rd, R. Lennox. Ensilage corn stocks,—1st, R. Main. Ensilage,—1st, W. Main; 2nd, R. Main. Butter,—1st, R. Lennox; 2nd, R. Main; 3rd, W. Kennedy. Apples,—1st, D. J. Mundle; 2nd, A. Dixon, Jr.; 3rd, R. Law. Crab apples,—1st, A. Dixon, Jr.; 2nd, R. Law; 3rd, W. E. Jardine. Plums,—1st, F. S. Peters; 2nd, A. Dixon. Shallot onions,—1st, Alf. Beattie; 2nd, F. S. Peters. Silver stem onions,—1st, F. S. Peters.

Oct. 14.—As you have not heard from the correspondent of this place for some weeks I will again send you some of the happenings. The leading question of the day is, Who is to represent our County or who is to stay at home? Among the numerous contestants it appears that J. D. Phinney, M. P. P., and his colleagues are likely to be the ones elected. We had a very pleasant call the other day from Mr. A. B. Wilson, station agent at Coal Branch. Mr. Edward, of Mortimore, has moved his family to this place last week. We are very glad to welcome them among us, as it is quite an addition to our day and Sabbath school. Mr. J. W. Moxton and family have returned from their vacation of ten days, much improved in health and spirits. Mr. J. F. R. McMichael, of Coal Branch, has been filling the position of station agent during Mr. Moxton's absence. Miss Lizette Moxton and her friend Miss Edwards of Newcastle, were here a few days, visiting her parents, before going to Boston. Mr. Craig, night agent here, has been removed to Regensville, and Mr. Housain Livingston, of Hancock, succeeds him. Our teacher, Miss Wheeler, will attend the County Institute at Richibucto this week. Mr. McPherson, section-foreman, is again in our midst. Mr. Russell Tharrott spent a few days at his home, Main River, last week. Mr. Hiram Legood has returned from Richibucto. Mrs. R. Legood, who has been quite ill, is improving. If all reports are true one of our fair ones will soon be joining the matrimonial list and taking her departure for Uncle Sam's territory. We are loath to part with her but have to submit to the inevitable in a case of this kind.

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