The Canadian Rockies

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success of the society and its strongly practical character are due. Originally established in small rooms, the society was enabled in 1890 to purchase the old Presbyterian church at Barras Bridge, which was converted into a geographical institute, and here the leading travellers and explorers have lectured to large audiences. Mr. Smithson was well known at the meetings of the British Association, which he rarely failed to attend, and always took an active part in the committee of Section E (Geography). He was also much interested in promoting relations between the Royal Geographical Society and the provincial societies. His death will be a serious loss to the society, which was so largely a reflex of his personality, and to the cause of geography in the north of England.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Canadian Rockies.

ON reading Prof. Norman Collie's paper, "Exploration in the Canadian Rockies," printed in the current number of the *Geographical Journal*, I notice that Mr. G. P. Baker, in commenting on that paper, refers to my own travels, in 1859, in the same regions, and remarks, "It is very difficult indeed to determine exactly where he (Lord Southesk) was; but, roughly speaking, he must have been in the neighbourhood of the headwaters of the Athabasca, journeying south to the Bow valley in a second parallel valley to the main range."

I believe that this will prove to have been the case, and my son, whose Australian explorations have recently been submitted to the Royal Geographical Society, has come to a similar conclusion—having applied the skill he possesses in laying down routes to laying down mine on Prof. Collie's map, using data supplied in my journal, as embodied in 'Saskatchewan and the Rocky Mountains,' and in the memory-sketch there (p. 234), in preparing which I had the advantage of some aid from Dr. Hector, a few years subsequent to my journey. My son thinks that the stream named on Prof. Collie's map, "Jonas creek," may very probably be that headwater of the Athabasca which was known to me as "Medicine Tent river" ('Sask.,' p. 193). If so, my entry to its valley might have been made near the junction of Prof. Collie's "Poboktan creek;" the fine mitre-peaked mass of "black slaty rock," which I named Mount Lindsay ('Sask.,' p. 193), being on my right as I descended a precipitous steep to gain the valley of the larger stream. The point marked "Jonas pass," might well represent (or lay near) the route I followed in crossing the divide into the Saskatchewan watershed.

Near that point my men and I erected a cairn on the top of an isolated hill of no great height ('Sask.,' p. 196). Referring to its position, I afterwards wrote, "There are two main valleys, . . . the former running north-west, the other south-east; the Medicine Tent river, an Athabasca headwater, running down the first, the North river, a Saskatchewan headwater, going down the second; the hill on which we placed the monument standing exactly at the central point where the two descents divide" ('Sask.,' p. 221). Here I may incidentally mention that when my eldest son was travelling in America a few years ago, he met at Banff (in the Rockies) a gentleman (whose name he has forgotten) who told him he had recently been among the mountains, and had seen "Southesk's cairn."

At p. 363 of the *Geographical Journal*, Mr. Wilcox states in his paper that "even the Stony Indians . . . know little of this river (North Fork)," as they do not visit that part of the country, believing that one of their tribe was "destroyed by an evil spirit." Whatever the reason, the whole district near the Medicine Tent river seemed to be utterly unfrequented, the only trace of a camp that we noticed,

during many days, being a faint vestige, which one of my men (Klyne, a French half-breed) supposed to mark a visit to those parts made by his uncle, some thirty years before. Owing to that seclusion, the valleys on either side of my cairn were swarming with wild sheep, which, if not exactly tame, showed no signs of having been much disturbed.

The explorers of this district have generally entered it from the south and travelled northwards. In my own case the process was reversed, for, following the advice of Mr. Moberly, of the Hudson Bay Company's service, I "tracked up the McLeod river," and thence westward into the mountains some way to the south of "Jasper's House." "The highest peaks, he (Mr. Moberly) informed me, rose near the point at which I should in that case enter; and southwards thence to the head of the south Saskatchewan there extended about a ten days' march of country, which, as he believed, no European had ever seen" ('Sask.,' p. 167). In my journal I afterwards refer to the fact that Indians do not frequent that district: "Perhaps superstitious reasons may keep them away, as the name Medicine Tent river indicates magic and mystery. I am the first European who has visited this valley" ('Sask.,' p. 201).

One further remark may not be out of place. Among the many drawings and descriptions of Rocky Mountain scenery in the upper Saskatchewan and Athabasca regions, it has surprised me to find no record or mention of the singular and magnificent mountains seen by me in the country that probably lies to the east of Prof. Collie's "Jonas pass." Unlike the mountains of the Medicine Tent valley, those I refer to bore the character of vast mounds of *débris* crowned by enormous parallelograms of rock with perpendicular sides some 2000 to 3000 feet high. Mount Dalhousie (the frontispiece of my book) is one of these, but its summit showed a more castellated and broken formation than that of other mountains subsequently seen in the neighbourhood, one, in particular, "resembling an immense square block of masonry, placed on the summit of a vast mound with gradual slopes, like an altar raised by giants of old to some of the extinct gods" ('Sask.,' p. 223).

SOUTHESK.

April 13, 1899.

Hannibal's Pass.

It is with regret and a certain diffidence that I find myself compelled to dissent on a point relating to the Alps from the conclusions of my most indefatigable and learned friend, the Rev. W. A. B. Coolidge. His local and historical knowledge of the chain, and more particularly of the Western Alps, is, as he has reminded your readers, unrivalled in Europe. Yet I cannot but believe that, on further reflection, Mr. Coolidge will agree with Mr. Westlake and myself that for any profitable discussion of this old-world, but not worn-out, problem of "The Pass of Hannibal," something more is required than a thorough acquaintance with the localities and the classical texts. Surely, if we do not mean to waste our time, as so many have done before us, we must bring to the task historical insight as well as historical industry. We must remember that the "texts" were once the products of human beings. We must exercise our imagination so far as to realize who the authors were, what were their characters, and what the conditions in which they lived and wrote. Thus only shall we be able to form an opinion as to what conduct may, and what may not, reasonably be imputed to them. We shall further, using still the same method, be in a better position to decide what hypotheses are, and what are not, compatible with all we know of the characteristic energies of the Roman race.

If we set aside the text of Varro, there is little difficulty in making the Mont Genève fit the requirements of Livy. It is not "impossible," like the Little

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