Lowthian Green's Tetrahedral Theory

Author(s): A. de Lapparent

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descriptions of the routes over the two passes in the new edition (1898) of vol. i. of Mr. Ball's 'Alpine Guide.'

I have a fair working knowledge of the literature relating to Hannibal's pass, and have long ago come to the conclusion that the original extant accounts are quite contradictory, and that they cannot be reconciled. I have had, too, the advantage (probably never enjoyed by any other person) of having myself traversed every pass (with one or two exceptions), great or small, that has ever been claimed for Hannibal even by the wildest theorist, while in the case of these rare exceptions I have been on the summit of the pass, actually traversing but one side up and down, yet having had a close view of the other side. And I have no hesitation in stating that I am entirely and wholly in favour of the Mont Genève as most probably Hannibal's pass, the old mule-path from Clavières to Césanne (see Ball, vol. i. p. 80) being of course preferred to the circuitous modern carriage road. Most recent writers on the Continent are in favour of the Mont Genève, save, of course, Mommsen, who still clings to the impossible Little St. Bernard. The case for the Mont Genève has lately been very forcibly stated by Prof. Josef Fuchs in his small tractate entitled 'Hannibal's Alpenübergang' (Vienna, 1897), based on personal investigations on the spot, and with full knowledge of all the literature. As far as I am aware, Mr. Freshfield and Mr. Westlake stand alone in advocating the claims of the Argentière, which I for one consider quite baseless.

W. A. B. COOLIDGE.

March 7, 1899.

Lowthian Green's Tetrahedral Theory.

In the March number of the *Geographical Journal*, p. 250, I read the following words of Mr. Vaughan Cornish, speaking on the theory of Lowthian Green:—

"It is not the smallest part of our indebtedness to Dr. Gregory that his great power of exposition has brought this theory again before the world."

If Mr. Cornish would have spoken of the "*English world*," I would have nothing to object. But I am entitled to state that as early as 1881, the first edition of my '*Traité de Géologie*' contained a detailed account of the Lowthian Green theory, together with a discussion of the Elie de Beaumont pentagonal system. Moreover, the diagrams 4*a* and 5*b* of Mr. Gregory are nearly identical with the drawings in my book.

As the expansion of my '*Traité*' has been a very large one (more than 11,000 copies are now circulating through the world, and a fourth edition is in the press), I would claim for myself the merit of having, *eighteen years ago*, "brought before the world" the theory of the distinguished English writer, while Green's countrymen had failed to appreciate the work in due time.

PROF. A. de LAPPARENT.

Paris, March 3, 1899.

MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1898-1899.

Sixth Ordinary Meeting, February 27, 1899.—Sir CLEMENTS

MARKHAM, K.C.B., President, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS:—*Sidney J. Braithwaite; Captain Charles Ernest Carr; Colonel Arthur George Hay Church; James Creelman; Henry Nathaniel Gardiner, M.S.A.; Samuel Day Hopkinson; Walter Lindley Jones; Charles Gerald Lee; Heber*
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