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Review

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Summing up, the French *savants* state that, except for the huge deposits of mud in the valleys of the rivers, and the stripping of vegetation from the surface, the topography of the land has suffered little change; and soundings at sea indicate no material changes in depth.

A further short note on the petrography of the rocks ejected by Mont Pelée, by M. Lacroix, appears in the *Comptes Rendus* for September 15 (t. cxxxv. No. 11).

In the Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History (Article xxvi. vol. xvi.), Mr. Edmund O. Hovey publishes his official report on the eruptions of Martinique and St. Vincent. Mr. Hovey sailed on the *Dixie* with Messrs. Hill and Russell, and many of his points are to be found in the articles in the Martinique number of the *National Geographic Magazine*, already noticed. Some of the plates accompanying Mr. Hovey's paper are of great interest and beauty.

Prof. Heilprin contributes a short descriptive article on "Mont Pelée in its Might" to the September number of the *Fortnightly Review*. Prof. Heilprin and Mr. Leadbeater were the first to reach the top of the mountain. With reference to the valley of the Rivière Blanche, Prof. Heilprin notes that "the general surface smelled of mineral oil or steamed rubber, the significant odour which we had already noticed over the heated floor of the Lac des Palmistes on the top of the mountain." Speaking of the cloud which destroyed St. Pierre, he says, "What the exact constitution of this death-dealing cloud was will perhaps never be known, but its associations with the mud discharges, its heavy specific gravity, and the nephitic or oily odour of the products emitted by both the lower and upper craters, lend reasonable certainty to the belief that this glowing cloud was mainly composed of one of the heavier carbon gases brought under pressure to a condition of extreme incandescence, and whose liberation and contact with the oxygen of the atmosphere, assisted by electric discharges, wrought the explosion or series of explosions that developed the catastrophe. The preponderance of the heavy carbon gases in nearly all mud volcanoes supports this view, which is also strengthened by the absence, except in small quantities, of chlorine salts, to indicate the existence of a chlorinated gas."

Some interesting details of the later eruptions of Mont Pelée (August 17 to September 3) are to be found in a letter from Mr. H. A. Alfred Nicholls, published in *Nature* for October 23.

REVIEWS.

EUROPE.

THE ALPS IN 1864.*

UNDER the above title the late Mr. A. W. Moore printed, for distribution among his friends, a limited number of copies—less than a hundred—of his holiday Journal. The work has always been greatly prized by collectors of Alpine libraries. The difficulty in obtaining a copy formed a natural attraction to the collector; but apart from its rarity, the Journal was coveted as a book of rare charm. The most valued treasures of a library are not always the most read, but it is safe to say that Moore's Journal was never counted among the books at once sought after and neglected. It was but the simple, unaffected, straightforward account of a mountaineering holiday, written by a man who was in absolute

* 'The Alps in 1864.' A Private Journal by A. W. Moore. Edited by A. B. W. Kennedy, LL.D., F.R.S. Edinburgh: David Douglas. 1902.

sympathy with his subject, and knew thoroughly what he was talking about, and written with no thought either of the publisher or of the public. In such work, better perhaps than in any other, a writer unconsciously depicts his own personality, and sets down his impressions the more vividly because in a wholly unstudied manner. In the preface to the original issue the author apologizes for leaving in the text unimportant details and trivial incidents such as in a mountaineering journey "form the staple of a tour and constitute its charm." Revision could only have spoilt a work whose charm lies in its directness. This fact, we are glad to notice, is fully appreciated by the editor of the present edition. Many notes have been added, but these elucidate without interfering with the text. Often, indeed, the notes emphasize strongly the accuracy of Moore's judgment and observation, though it must be confessed they falsify in not a few instances his views as to the accessibility of certain Swiss mountains, and the possibility of traversing certain ridges which have since come to be termed "passes." Moore lived long enough to recognize that his judgment as to what could be climbed was often at fault. But in his day the mountaineer was an explorer rather than an athlete. The maps which the earlier generation of Alpine mountaineers had at their disposal, though good, were vastly inferior to the superb sheets now issued by the Swiss Government—unquestionably the most perfect delineation of a mountainous region to be found in any country. It says much for Moore's remarkable topographical accuracy of observation that many of the unnamed points of which he makes mention are clearly identified and noted in the present edition. Read a first time, any one of the accounts of the ascent of a peak or the crossing of a pass interests as a vivid direct narrative of mountain adventure. Read a second time, the description is felt to be the work of a man possessed of the keenest topographical insight, who can not only observe as he climbs, but apply his observation, and who yet all the time is thoroughly enjoying himself. Moore climbed in the spirit of a modern Conrad Gesner, with a simplicity of outfit and with a disregard generally of luxury that, while it forms a strong contrast to latter-day methods, explains how it came about that he accomplished so much.

It has long been felt—save perhaps by the fortunate possessors of original copies—that such a work as Moore's would interest a far wider circle than that for which it was primarily intended. Dr. Kennedy has carried out his labour of love, in preparing the new edition, with admirable judgment, and has succeeded, perfectly, in producing a volume that, while preserving faithfully the spirit of the Journal, throws into stronger relief its more hidden qualities of excellence. The familiar title is unchanged, although the editor has included in this volume—thereby enhancing its value—a good deal of matter from Moore's later journals.

The photographs illustrating the work are numerous and good, some of them admirable. Dr. Kennedy is responsible for many of the views, and fully holds his own as a photographer. The pictures have been selected as real illustrations of the expeditions described. The views are well reproduced, and not, we are glad to see, on abnormally heavy paper. Dr. Kennedy has indeed succeeded in producing a delightful compromise between an *édition de luxe* and a handy volume.

The scope of the work precluded, of course, mention of Moore's Caucasian explorations. It was in the Caucasus that he showed best his geographical acumen. In the expeditions made in 1868 and 1874, the party had to work with the old 5-verst map of the Russian Survey. No map, as regards the snow and glacier regions, could well have been more misleading. To Moore must ever be given the credit of being one of the pioneers who began to unravel the tangled errors of the glacier delineation of the Caucasian range, and to make clear the intricacies of this beautiful mountain region.

C. T. D.

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