
Ascent of Mount McKinley

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provided for by the R.G.S. is required for the advanced student, but it must be remembered that these native languages have to be learnt by Englishmen and others (Government officials, traders, missionaries, farmers, etc.) in as short a time as possible. Grammars and dictionaries are written. It is best that they should be as simple and concise as possible. Why endeavour to show that *Awemba* is not really *Awemba* nor *Abemba*, but that the *w* is a mixture of *w* and *b*? It is better, for the student at any rate, to pronounce it *w* or *b* as he reads it in the book and find out for himself the shade of sound later.

The Rev. Dr. Heatherwick, of the Blantyre Mission, has written an excellent grammar and vocabulary of "Chinyanja." In it, however, one is constantly coming across words with *ph* and *th*. These consonants do not represent the *f* and the *th* (as in our "the") but are intended to represent an aspirated *p* and *t* which we do not possess in the English language. This aspirated consonant undoubtedly exists in Chinyanja as in other Bantu languages, but to see it in print is confusing to a man trying to learn a native language from a book.* (If it was written *p'* or *t'* it would be better.) What I am driving at is that the R.G.S.'s system is sufficient for ordinary purposes, *i.e.* for compiling the usual grammars and dictionaries that are generally to be found in "new countries" (nearly always written by missionaries).

The main thing is to make orthography as easy as possible. If a white man says "pewa" instead of "p'ewa" (or "phewa," as written by Dr. Heatherwick) he will probably be understood by the native (as long as the rest of his sentence is not entirely ridiculous).

Most of the English Missionary Societies have adopted the R.G.S.'s spelling. The Foreign Missions have peculiar ways of spelling. The *ts* instead of the *z* (used all through by the French Mission here); the *tsh* instead of *ch*; *oa* instead of *wa*; yet *Lewanika* instead of *Luanika*.

J. C. C. COXHEAD,

Acting Resident Magistrate, Barotse District.

P.S.—The French Mission are accused of having spelt *Lewanika*'s name with a *w*, yet the French have no *w* apparently (except in wagon).

Ascent of Mount McKinley.

101, Mount Street, W.

Referring to your announcement in the November number of the *Geographical Journal* of Prof. Parker's attempt on Mount McKinley, it may interest you to know that a local earthquake took place on Mount McKinley at the same time as the eruption on Ketmai last summer. Prof. Parker and Mr. Belmore Brown (with whom I happened to return through U.S.A.) had descended the mountain only two days before, but for which they would infallibly have been killed by the enormous masses of ice which were displaced and kept rolling down the mountain. As it was, they themselves and their tents were knocked down, besides a herd of caribou half a mile away which they happened to be watching at the time. Warburton Pike and I, who were near Dease lake, Cassiar, British Columbia, noticed a thick haze for four days—which we thought at the time was smoke from a bush fire—and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch of ash was subsequently found on the trail near to Dease lake, some 800 miles from Ketmai, while quantities of fine ash came as far south as Victoria, British Columbia, 1200 miles distant. It would be interesting to know how far

* The R.G.S. system allows *ph* for *p* followed by an aspirate.—[Ed.]

south the ash from the eruption was carried. Mr. Belmore Brown is about to publish his account of the Mount McKinley expedition in the *American Geographical Magazine* and the *World's Work*.

OSBORNE BEAUCLERK.

Captain Bailey's paper on "South-Eastern Tibet and the Mishmi Hills."

Calcutta, October 29, 1912.

May I call your attention to a mistake in the note which was added to the map published with my paper in April last? The note says "Except where his route is crossed by that of the Pundit A.K., between Yenching, Shiuden Gumpa and Krang, Captain Bailey passed through previously unexplored country." This is not quite accurate. In 1907 M. Bacot travelled along the route subsequently followed by me, from Petu to Menkong, and again in 1909 he travelled from Menkong to some point east of the Tsong La. Again, as I pointed out in my paper, the whole of the road from Michi to Rima had been traversed by A.K. in 1882, while in the Mishmi hills both Mr. Needham and Mr. Williamson had almost reached Rima. Unfortunately, during my journey I had neither M. Bacot's map of his 1909 journey nor Mr. Williamson's map with me, nor was M. Bacot's map accessible to me when I wrote the paper. I had hoped to correct the position of Menkong by an observation for latitude, but was prevented from doing so by the weather; but I have now seen M. Bacot's paper, and find that he took the latitude of that place, and had I known this my map could have been made more accurate by adjusting the position to his valuation.

F. M. BAILEY, Captain.

MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, SESSION 1912-1913.

First Meeting, November 4, 1912.—The Right Hon. EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., etc., President, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*J. Proby Armstrong; George Edgar Joyce, B.A.; Cuthbert Henry McDowell; Stewart Edward White.*

The paper read was:—

"Influence of Geographical Conditions on Japanese Agriculture." By Miss Ellen Churchill Semple.

Second Meeting, November 15, 1912.—The Right Hon. EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., etc., President, in the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Henry C. Abraham; James C. Agnew; Ernest Frederick Allum; Wilfrid Batley; Edward Kenneth Biggs; Chas. Wm. Blacker; Lieut. Henry Le Marchant Brock (Royal Warwickshire Regt.); Fred. Bullock; Arthur Richard Canning; Sidney James Chesterton; Alfred Philip Cork; Lieut. Gordon Philip Cosens (Royal Dragoons); Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Bowdich Cottell, A.M.D.; Stenton T. Covington; Frederick Nutter Cox; George Churchill Crawford; John William Darwood; Edwin Gladstone Davies; George Reynolds Davies; Lieut. O. C. Downes (4th Batt. Rifle Brigade); Rev. T. Oliver Edwards; Claude William Erskine-Humphrys; Lancelot Douglas Fawcett; James F. Ford; Hollis Godfrey; Lieut.-Colonel Stuart Hill Godfrey (Indian Staff Corps); Herbert Harry*