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West of India. In my lighter moments I wandered, explored, climbed and shot through the Hindu Koosh and Himalaya ranges, but wherever I found myself, the standard of comparison has always been the Swiss Alps. I am sure that my old friends here present to-night, Col. Gurdon, Mr. Mumm and Mr. Montagnier, will bear me out on this and our combined experiences cover a wide range.

Further, I am in the peculiarly happy condition that after many years spent in the mountains I can return to my first love and find her as young as ever! She was always white on top when I first knew her. The idea that the Alps are hackneyed, played out or stale is to me an absurd notion. This is but my second visit to Saas Fee, the first being 22 years ago. I feel I can still look forward to a good many years of wandering, and this pleasant outlook is due to the fact that the heroic period when men climbed the Matterhorn direct from Zermatt is no more.

Elderly men can now hope to ascend the great mountains and snowfields and mightily prolong their strength and enjoyment of life in doing so without over-exertion, and all this is due to the enterprise of the S.A.C.

This no doubt is a hackneyed subject, but a very blessed one.

The S.A.C. have conferred a real blessing on humanity; may their shadow never grow less, coupled with the fervent hope that my own speedily will.

Before I sit down I cannot help saying what a pleasure it has been to me to make the acquaintance of Dr. Dübi, a man well known and highly honoured throughout the British mountaineering world, and if I may be allowed, I would like to couple his name with the toast of the S.A.C., and I give you therefore the toast of the S.A.C. coupled with the name of Dr. Dübi."

The rapturous applause having subsided, M. J. L. RENAUD, of the Geneva Section of the C.A.S., responded in these terms:

"Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I should like to thank you for the very courteous invitation extended to our Section to be represented at your monthly Dinner. It gives me great pleasure to have been chosen from amongst our Club to welcome you in one of our most beautiful valleys and to convey to you here the salutations of our Geneva Section.

Allow me, gentlemen, to offer our fair and charming guests, the ladies, a special and most cordial welcome.

We feel highly flattered by your presence and most thoroughly appreciate your assistance. You make the Dinner brilliant and change the monotony of black coats into a cheerful assembly of gay colours. You enchant our valley!

Ladies and Gentlemen, all of us have left behind under the smoky clouds of our cities the cares and worries of the troublous times we are passing through. Our everyday life, overshadowed by commercial, industrial and financial disputes, is no more for a few weeks.

You from the far-away Island have lifted up your eyes to the mountains and have come to us.

My friends, Mr. d'Arcis, your Honorary Member, and the delegates of our Committee des Cabanes, Messrs. Dunaud, Eggermann, Fiala, Graff and Vaucher, are here to prove by our presence how sincerely and most thoroughly we appreciate all you have done for our Genevese Section of the S.A.C.

I personally and all of us are admirers of British energy, British efficiency and British fairness. Your country is a beautiful land in which many of us Swiss have passed some of our most happy and useful years, and it is a great satisfaction for us to realise that amidst all the difficulties of the present situation the long and traditional friendship between Switzerland and Great Britain is to-day even more firmly established than ever.

Our two countries, so widely separated as they are from each other and differing so completely in geographical situation, seem to have been united by a real community of ideas for the last 500 years or more.

You have the same liberal high ideals as we have.

During the last World War, when civilization seemed to be in danger of being washed away in both our countries, men have arisen up with courage to canalize the torrent. They worked like our rough mountaineers when wild waters, rushing down from the heights, try to sweep away everything in their peaceful valleys.

Who were they, these men?

They were accustomed to lift up their hearts as well as their eyes high above the low horizon of material life, those

who loved to lift up their eyes towards the mountains, those who knew the way to the heights! Like the climber they did not mind the hard, rough rockwork. Let us do as they did, raise ourselves up to the summit.

I have said that we were admirers of British fairness. We are not a world power, and there is no rivalry between your country and ours.

We desire, like you, a fair field and no favour, and we have again and again seen that England has given us fair play always.

In our absolute faith in British fairness I see the chief reasons for the friendly feelings entertained throughout all Switzerland towards your country. Mountaineering is above all the school for energy and fair play. The conditions and the reward are the same for everyone.

When we approach the lofty mountains and penetrate into one of the most brilliant parts of the Empire of our great God, we feel ourselves raised up high above the multitude of petty preoccupations and worldly cares.

But to get up to the top all our energies combined must work together, encroped in the same caravan. We must go on helping each other to the last. When with throbbing hearts we reach the summit and delightedly look round over the vast horizon, life seems more simple, though how much more lofty; our two countries are roped up in the same caravan and work together for the benefit of mankind. Let us in our Swiss Alpine Club do the same to the utmost of our power.

Like our forefathers, when they thrilled the world with their cry of "Liberty" from the heights of our mountains, let us repeat our Swiss Motto: "Un pour tous, tous pour un," lifting up our glasses to England and Switzerland united."

This speech also received the appreciation of the gathering, and Prof. ROGET, also a member of the Geneva Section, then proposed the health of the "Alpine Club London," explaining that the London Alpine Club was the first of its kind to be founded, and that its origin dated from the Shakespearean period. He further explained to our British friends Switzerland's extremely difficult position during the War and assured them of the sincere sympathies of the Swiss nation for the British nation, words which were warmly received and responded to by Mr. A. L. MUMM, the Vice-President of the Alpine Club, coupled with the expression of deepfelt thanks to the members of the Geneva Section of the C.A.S., and to Messrs. Graham and Bruce for the pains they had taken in successfully arranging the splendid gathering.

After the replies of Messrs. GRAHAM and BRUCE, Messrs. JOHN GRAFF and GEORGES DIMITIER, respectively in French and English, proposed the health of the ladies present, concluding with the characteristic Swiss Bans: *Cantonaux, Féderaux et de Coeur*, and the singing of "Quelles vivent," which customs greatly impressed and delighted the whole assembly.

The health of the Chairman, General the Hon. C. G. Bruce, was next proposed by Dr. DUEBI, member of the Bernese Section of the S.A.C. and Hon. Member of the British Association of the S.A.C., who expressed great admiration for the cheerful disposition and vivacity of the Chairman, thanking him for having accepted the duty on this occasion.—

Midnight was approaching when the function came to an end, and I feel convinced that the day will never be forgotten by those who had the good fortune to be present.

The members of the British Colony present at Saas Fee have complimented Messrs. Graham and Bruce and expressed their gratitude to the members of the Geneva Section who arranged the luncheon at the Britannia Hut, and to the donors of the Memorial Tablet: Mr. and Mrs. Eggermann, Messrs. E. d'Arcis, Ch. Boveyron, Em. A. Dunaud, E. Fiala, F. Fiala fils, H. Gallay, Emile Geneux, John Graff, J. L. Renaud, J. P. Thomson, Chs. Ybloux.

I also wish to mention that the proprietors of the Saas Fee Hotels, the Family Lagger, excelled themselves in providing for the comforts and the catering for the gathering, which was a great credit to them, pleasing all the participants.

GEORGES DIMITIER.

### EGLISE SUISSE.

79, Endell Street, W.C.2.

Dimanche, 28 Août, 11h.—M. Boissonnas.

Dimanche, 4 Septembre, 11h.—M. Boissonnas.

### MARIAGE.

HENRI SUTER, d'Affoltern sur l'Albis, et GERTRUDE LILLEY STEINKE, de Londres—le 22 Août.