

## EXCURSIONS AND NOTES.

THIS rambling note may be read in connection with "A Lonely Wander" (*C.C.J.*, Vol vi., p. 76), but my friend Barclay went further westward than I did. My station was Lochielside ;

IN THE  
LOCHIEL  
COUNTRY.      thence I walked back to Fassifern before taking to Gleann Suileag in the deer forest of Achdaliou. It is a far cry from Fassifern to Quatre Bras, but the connection is not likely ever to be forgotten in the country of the

Camerons. Gleann Suileag has little to recommend it, but it is the key to scenery which made a great impression on me. There is only one house, a stalker's, in the glen. The waterparting reached, the route was continued into the sheep district of Glen Loy. Then at Achnamellan an obliging shepherd directed me over Am Mam into Glen Mallie ; another waterparting reached, the scene was changed. There one looks down on the "Old" or Lochiel Forest, which, according to Robertson's "Agriculture of Inverness" (1808), was then the only "regular forest in all the county" ; sheep were introduced in 1764. The Old Forest (An t-Seann Fhrith) is a forest in a double sense, for there are to be seen several miles of the grandest pines in the Highlands, not even Ballochbuie excepted. Many of the firs are of outstanding size, and never fail to attract the attention of interested visitors. The quality, too, is so superior that sections submitted to experts have been mistaken for pitch pine. Yet we read that, in 1793, the woods being far from shore, and the roads bad, "to purchase imported timber, therefore, is found to be cheaper ; at least it is preferred."

Glen Mallie was left with regret, though a more picturesque scene than Loch Arkaig could hardly be imagined. The "voyage" across from Invermallie to Ardachrie in the beautiful evening was made all the more pleasant by the company of a most intelligent stalker ; one could never weary of the mountain vista at the head of the loch. The following morning gave additional facilities for a more intimate acquaintance with the loch, nor could a better guide have been found than the head stalker. The eastern end is particularly well wooded and romantic, the western barer but grander ; a slight curve in the loch prevents the whole sheet being seen at a glance. Viewed from the lower end the cone of Sgor na h-Aide forms a picturesque point in the west. Altogether the loch scenery is of the finest—perhaps not equalled, not to say excelled, by that of any other loch in the Highlands ; at least so it seemed to the writer last July. Queen Victoria described Loch Arkaig as "very lovely, reminding one of Loch Katrine."

I continued the walk to Loch Lochy *via* Mile Dorcka, the Dark Mile—"dark from the number of very fine trees which overhang it, while on the left it is overshadowed by beetling rocks with a rich tangled undergrowth of bracken and heather." The West Highland train picked me up

at Spean Bridge, "and so home" to Glasgow, with considerably enlarged ideas as to the beauty and grandeur of the West Highlands. A. I. M.

THERE are many delightful hill walks around Newtonmore, in fact we know of few places which offer better opportunities for heather rambling than does this picturesque Highland village. A visit A' CHAILLEACH to Loch Dubh, some six miles west, makes a grand [MONADHLIATH] excursion. The route lies up Glen Banchor, by the banks of the Calder, to the Dalballoch Ford; here it is easy to follow up the wrong glen, but the people in the cottage can give directions. The Allt an Lochain Duibh should be kept well on the left; the glen is deceptive, and around each corner and over every moraine one expects to find the "black loch," but it is a good hour and three quarters' walk from the cottage to the Loch. When reached, the scene will amply repay the rough tramp. A pleasant variation of the route is to find one's way back to Newtonmore over the ridge to the east into the Glen Balloch and holding eastwards still over another ridge into the next valley, down which an easy walk brings one back to Glen Banchor, about two and a half miles above Newtonmore.

A' Chailleach (the old woman) makes a splendid day from Newtonmore. The Glen Banchor road is followed till within a couple of hundred yards of the first stream coming down from the north. This stream is kept on the left until one is opposite the "red hut," a conspicuous little cabin on the south shoulder of A' Chailleach. Here the stream should be crossed—and some difficulty may be found in doing so in wet weather—and the hut made for, from which the ridge can be gained in fifty minutes and the summit in ten minutes more. The whole walk from Newtonmore to the summit can easily be done in three hours. J. G. K.

H. Alexander, Jr., J. Bruce Miller, and J. A. Parker had a very fine day on Lochnagar on 5th March. They went up the Black Spout, which was full of very hard snow, and took three hours of continuous step cutting. Not satisfied with that, they went across to the Loch to the west, and climbed one of the buttresses; they then descended to Ballochbuie and motored back to Ballater.

ON October 29th, 1910, W. A. Reid and J. R. Levack left Tyndrum at 10.30 a.m., having come from Dunblane by the morning train, and climbed Ben Laoigh (3708 ft.) by the north ridge of the BEN LAOIGH N.E. corrie, returning to Tyndrum at 5.30. The weather AND BEN was fairly good, but there was mist at the summit cairn. CRUACHAN. Next day they left Loch Awe Hotel at 8 a.m. and drove 3½ miles to the falls of Cruachan. Climbing from this point at 8.30, they reached the top of Meall Cuanail (3004 ft.) at 10.45. Then Stob Dearg (3611 ft.), the most westerly peak of the Cruachan range was gained at 12.15, Ben Cruachan itself (3689 ft.) at 1 p.m., Drochaid Ghlas (3312) at 2.10, Stob Diamh (3272 ft.) at 3 p.m., and Stob Garbh (3215 ft.) at 3.20.

A long descent by a grassy slope brought them, at 4.40, to the disused

quarries at the north end of the mountain, and the hotel was reached at 5.30. The weather was perfect.

ON March 4th, 1911, W. Garden, J. W. Garden, W. A. Reid, and J. R. Levack left Strathyre at 8 a.m. and drove to Ardvorlich on Loch Earn, left Ardvorlich at 9.30, and reached the top of Ben Vorlich (3224 ft.) at 11.45. Descending the west side of the hill, the foot of the steep face of Stùc a Chroin was reached and the rope was put on. After a somewhat difficult ascent of the buttress immediately to the south of the most northerly gully on the mountain face, the summit cairn (3189 ft.) was reached at 4.15. A bee-line westwards was then made down across Glenample and over the ridge to Strathyre, which was reached at 7 p.m.

Next morning they drove past Loch Voil to the head of Loch Doine. Leaving this at 10.30, they climbed the south slop of Stob Invercarraig, and arrived at the Cairn of Stob Coire an Lochain (3497 ft.) at 12.50, and Am Binnein (3821 ft.) at 1.30. Descending the north side of Am Binnein, which was very icy, they then climbed Ben More (3843 ft.) in a snow blizzard, reaching the cairn at 3 p.m. Descending by the N.W. ridge they reached Crianlarich at 5.45 p.m.

J. R. L.

The above note on these four great Perthshire peaks recalls a walk undertaken in July, 1908, by H. Kellas, W. L. Cook, and J. G. Kyd. Instead of beginning at Ben Vorlich and working westwards we began at Ben More and came east.

On 18th July we disturbed the peace of Crianlarich by rising at half-past 3. We left the hotel at 4.15, reaching Benmore farm half an hour later; crossing the roadside fence we climbed up through the dewy meadow on to the steep N.W. slope of Ben More; after a stiff climb we reached the summit at 6.20. The whole landscape was under cloud, an occasional hill peeping out like an island out of the surf. We spent an hour and a quarter on the top and then made tracks for Am Biennein which we mounted at 8.25; half an hour sufficed us on this top as the morning sun had dispelled the clouds, and although magnificent, the view was not so strange as that we had had from Ben More. Twelve minutes brought us to the top of Stob Coire an Lochain, from there we dipped into Glen Carnaig, and found the "going" bad. I expect Dr. Levack's route over Stob Invercarraig is the better one between Loch Doine and Stob Coire an Lochain; however we reached the head of Loch Voil at 10.30, just an hour and a quarter after leaving the Stob. We had a refreshing dip in the cool waters of the Loch, and as we had a trap awaiting us, we soon drove down through Balquhiddier to King's House Inn, where we lunched. After an hour and a half at King's House we left at 1.30 and wandered up through the steading to the ridge behind the Inn. We struck the Burn of Ample at 2.45, and reached the top of Stùc a Chroin at 4.40. An hour and twenty minutes brought us to the summit of Ben Vorlich, and Ardvorlich was reached at 7.20, just an hour after leaving the summit of Ben Vorlich and fifteen hours after leaving Crianlarich. A trap met us here and drove us to St. Fillans. Next day we spent boating on Loch Earn, and felt glad that there were other things in life worth living for besides climbing hills.

J. G. K.

WE print the name of the peer of the Cairngorm range as per margin, with some hesitation and a great deal more trepidation. For Mr. F. C.

Diack has been revising the spelling and meaning of "BEN MUICH DHUI." local place-names in light of their Gaelic derivatives, and has upset a large number of existing and generally recognised forms. Having outraged the susceptibilities of the Public Librarian by insisting that the original name of Aberdeen was Aberdon, and that Aberdeen really means the mouth of the Don, he afterwards (*Free Press*, May 6) fell foul of the maps and guide-books that give the name of our beloved mountain as "Ben Muich Dhui," meant to represent B. (na) muice duibhe, "hill of the black pig." Mr. Diack maintains that this name is a "ghost" form or artificial creation. "On Deeside, Speyside, and Strathaven alike," he says, "the designation is always Beinn Mac Duibh (not B. Mhic Dhuib), 'Macduff's hill'," and, though local tradition is silent as to who this Macduff was, he can be identified with fair certainty from historical records. "The Macduff Earls of Fife held lands in the north about the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, perhaps earlier, and from extant charters we find among their possessions the lands of Strathaven, of which our hill would have been the southern boundary. It seems likely that here lies the explanation of the name." Authorities are cited in support of the Beinn Mac Duibh or Ben Macduff theory, and Mr. Diack opines that "it is clear that 'the black pig' must be definitely discarded, regretfully or otherwise."

There are all the elements here, we suspect, provocative of a keen controversy; but the battle must be left to Gaelic scholars. Not improbably, the most of us will go on writing and printing "Ben Muich Dhui," be it right or wrong, leaving its meaning indeterminate. The interpretation, "the mountain of the black sow," is supposed to be derived from the hog-backed ungainly appearance of the mountain, or from some hunting incident in the days when wild swine abounded there (see *C. C. J.*, I., 311). On the other hand, Sir Archibald Geikie gives the hill or the mountain "of dark gloom" ("Scenery of Scotland" and "Landscape in History"). Mr. Diack's article, by the way, contains also fresh meanings of Cairntoul, the Larig Ghru, and Morrone.

LORD EVERSLEY—better known perhaps by his name when a commoner, George John Shaw-Lefevre—has introduced a bill into the House of Lords

which proposes to enact that where evidence is given of forty years' use of a way, the claim of the public shall not be defeated by showing that the land has been in family settlement during that period. This looks severely technical, but it appears that in England a public right of way can only be established by proof of actual dedication by an owner of the land possessed of the entire legal estate, or by evidence of use over a sufficiently long period to justify a presumption of dedication. Cases, however, frequently occur where, though there is evidence of long use the land has been in family settlement successively renewed, so that no owner had been in a position to dedicate the footpath to the public. The bill will practically assimilate the law of England to that of Scotland. It has been referred to a Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament.

Mr. Munro-Ferguson has introduced in the Commons a Rights of Way Bill for Scotland. It provides for the protection, by legal or other proceedings, of public rights of way, by District Committees or County Councils, on the representation of a Parish Council or of six parish electors that encroachment has taken place or is likely to take place. Under a clause of the bill every county clerk must prepare a list of public ways within the county, including footpaths and drove roads.

MR. THOMAS E. HAMMOND, President of the Surrey Walking Club, had a brief article extolling the pleasures of walking, in the *Daily Mail* of

THE  
PLEASURES OF  
WALKING.

May 5th. He pointed out, what we believe is quite true, that "even in these days of easy travelling, and with every temptation to ride, walking has never been so popular." The advantages of walking which he enumerated are familiar enough to be almost commonplaces. "One sees a deal more of the country in detail than do cyclists or motorists, and one is able to take to the footpaths and thus enjoy a cross-country ramble which is forbidden the former, and moreover there is endless pleasure in getting from one place to another merely by the aid of strolling. A further advantage is that by walking one arrives at a perfect state of physical fitness."

Assent may not be given so readily to Mr. Hammond's assertion that the best time for walking is undoubtedly during the night—say, between the hours of 6 p.m. and 8 a.m. Most of the long distance walks of the Surrey Club, he says, commence in the evening and continue throughout the night, and sometimes the whole of the following day.

THE London Rifle Brigade accomplished a walking feat on April 22nd and 23rd last, when they marched from the Duke of York's Column, Waterloo Place, London, to the Aquarium, Brighton, a distance of

A MARCHING FEAT. fully 52½ miles, in the actual marching time of 13¾ hours, or at the rate of nearly four miles per hour. This is claimed as a remarkable feat of endurance, more especially as the men were in full marching order, including rifle, bayonet, haversack, water-bottle, overcoat, and equipment—a total weight of 45 lb. Fifty-six officers and men completed the journey, and not a man fell out.

THE summit of Ben Nevis was reached by a motor car on 13th May last, but mountain-climbing by this novel means is hardly likely to become popular. It looks, indeed, as if the feat were intended

MOTOR CAR  
ON  
BEN NEVIS.

more to demonstrate what a motor car can do than for any other purpose. Its accomplishment, moreover, was a matter of great difficulty, five days' work being required to safely pilot the car to the top. A new route to the half-way house had to be found, and though from that point onward the bridle path was utilised, it had sometimes to be temporarily widened and sometimes to be skirted, while snow near the summit had also to be skilfully negotiated. The car which has made this "record" was a Ford 20 horse-power touring car. See "Up Ben Nevis on a Motor-Cycle" in *C. C. J.*, iii., 375.

The following new members have been admitted to the Club during the present year :—

- Miss Mary Angus, Inneriach, Blackness Road, Dundee.  
 Mrs. W. F. Croll, 41 Albert Street, Aberdeen.  
 Miss Agnes Wilson, Inneriach, Blackness Road, Dundee.  
 Henry Alexander, Jun., M.A., 1 Queen's Cross, Aberdeen.  
 William Angus, Resident Engineer, Tyne Commission, Grange Road, Ryton-on-Tyne.  
 William Littlejohn Cook, 30 Carden Place, Aberdeen.  
 Robert J. A. Dunn, 5 Queen's Road, Aberdeen.  
 William Dunn, M.A., LL.B., 11 and 12 Clement's Lane, London, E.C.  
 James Hastings Edwards, M.A., LL.B., 1 Golden Square, Aberdeen.  
 Austyn J. C. Fyfe, F.F.A., 27 Belvidere Crescent, Aberdeen.  
 James B. Gillies, B.L., 375 Great Western Road, Aberdeen.  
 James Iverach, 12 Ferryhill Place, Aberdeen.  
 James Vass Lorimer, 55 King's Gate, Aberdeen.  
 D. Ronald Macdonald, 98 Queen's Road, Aberdeen.  
 J. Duncan MacDiarmid, M.A., B.L., 173A Union Street.  
 Cecil Mackie, 35 Forest Road, Aberdeen.  
 William Malcolm, 164 Bonaccord Street, Aberdeen.  
 J. Bruce Miller, 17 Rubislaw Den North, Aberdeen.  
 A. P. Milne, Cressbrook, Queen's Road, Aberdeen.  
 J. W. Milne, C.A., 46A Union Street, Aberdeen.  
 Alex. Ogilvie, 119 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen.  
 Ian Maxwell Ratray, Coral Bank, Blairgowrie.  
 John Robertson, 62 Queen's Road, Aberdeen.  
 Charles Reid, M.A., Woodbank, Cults.  
 William F. Shirras, 16 Carden Place, Aberdeen.  
 A. Landsborough Thomson, Castletown House, Chanonry, Old Aberdeen.  
 Alexander Mackay Watt, 130 Hamilton Place, Aberdeen.  
 Theodore Watt, M.A., Rosemount Press, Aberdeen.  
 Alexander Morrice Wilson, M.A., Beechwood, Rubislaw Den South, Aberdeen.  
 H. E. Wright, M.A., 11A New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London, W.C.

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## REVIEWS.

MESSRS. LONGMAN have just published a handsome volume, "King Edward VII. as a Sportsman," by Alfred E. T. Watson. His Majesty, as everybody knows, was interested in nearly every form of sport—EDWARD VII. except angling. He was a fairly good shot, had stalked AND deer in his time, was fond of yachting, and delighted in BALMORAL. horse-racing; but "the river, except as a 'thing of beauty,' had no charm for him—neither by temperament nor by circumstance was he predisposed to the angler's art." More than all this, the King, according to the introduction to the volume, possessed in a superlative degree all the qualifications that mark the perfect sportsman, and took the right view of sport; "instead of being a slave to it and making a business of it, to him it was always a relaxation, and often a much-needed

one—he valued sport more for what it gave him than for the actual thing itself.” The social and sociable side of sport specially appealed to the King, we are told, and was displayed in a very marked manner when His Majesty was in residence at Balmoral. “Perhaps nowhere in the domain of sport did King Edward feel more thoroughly in his element than he did when, seated in the heather and surrounded by his guests, he could breathe the keen Scotch air that he always loved, and enjoy to the full the matchless scenery of the slopes of Lochnagar.”

The introduction just quoted from is furnished by Captain the Hon. Sir Seymour Fortescue, who for the last seventeen years was Equerry-in-Waiting to the King. He also contributes the chapter devoted to Balmoral, though two-thirds of it is written by Captain Blair Oliphant, of Ardblair Castle, Blairgowrie, whose assistance he secured “to do justice to Balmoral.” Much of the chapter, of course, relates to deer-stalking and stags that fell to King Edward’s rifle, and accounts are given of “the good men and true whose lives had been devoted to the care of the forest,” embracing a very striking reference to the intimacy that sprang up between His Majesty and Arthur Grant, the head stalker. Of Balmoral as a sporting ground Captain Oliphant says:—

“There is in the length and breadth of Scotland no stretch of country more fitted by its natural beauties and sporting amenities for the recreation of Kings than the moors and glens of the Upper Dee. Here is to be found the best of all that Scotland has to offer to the lover of the beautiful, to the seeker after health and rest, and to the sportsman. In the narrow compass between the Cairngorm Mountains on the north and Lochnagar on the south are all the delights that Nature, in her wildest and most untrammelled flights, holds forth to those who have the understanding to take pleasure in her contrasts and caprices. Here is solitude and the storm, here silence and the deep chanting of the wind, here the forbidding austerity of crag and scarp and the laughter of a thousand streams, here the naked summits in unabashed array and the little hills clad decently with birch and pine. And in the midst of all the river, as it were, the soul of the land.”

“**ABERDEEN Street Names: Their History, Meaning, and Personal Associations**”, by G. M. FRASER, Aberdeen: The Bonaccord Press, 1911. Price 3/6 net.—This, the latest addition to the works

**ABERDEEN STREET NAMES.** by our City’s Librarian, is one which possesses particular interest to our club members. Its title is sufficiently explicit to indicate the nature of the volume, but not until one has read the book can one have an idea of the wealth of local history and tradition contained in its pages.

The author makes the street names, which have perhaps become, through familiarity, nothing more than names, alive with associations. Few of us in the bustle of business, hurrying along the Netherkirkgate, pause to remind ourselves that we are on one of the paths taken by our forefathers to the old St. Nicholas Church; nor do we think on our evening stroll by Forest Road and the Stockets that we are treading the ground covered by the old Stocket Forest, one of the seven Royal hunting forests of Aberdeenshire, where the incident is said to have occurred of the saving of the King

from a ferocious wolf, which was slain by a Highland follower, with his skein. His reward was a grant of land in the forest, and thus arose the family and lands of Skene. Mr. Fraser gives us some very happy derivations, and we cannot but admire his patient effort and his firmness in refusing those quite likely but yet inadmissible. His story of such names as Footdee, Guestrow, Mounthooly, and many others, far too numerous to mention, are full of romance.

It is a book which should be possessed by every one of our Club Members, who will find that after reading it their pedestrian excursions around and in our own town have a new and living interest.

The author has earned the sincere gratitude of all Aberdonians for bringing to light the many stirring memories of his latest book.

"Swiss Mountain Climbs", by George D. Abraham, London: Mills & Boon, Ltd., 1911. Price 7/6 net.—Mr. Abraham is one of the most prolific of all writers on Mountaineering. Hardly a season

SWISS MOUNTAIN passes but we have some new work from his pen; and CLIMBS. this, his latest book, keeps up the high standard to which his previous works attained. "Swiss Mountain Climbs" deals with the Swiss Alps in three parts:—

- I. The Bernese Oberland and its outlying groups.
- II. The Pennine Alps.
- III. The Bernina Alps and outlying centres.

The Alps of Savoy, which of course are not "Swiss," are conspicuous by their absence. The book is full of thrilling tales of perilous climbs and stormy glacier passages; and besides being a most excellent guide-book, is also a charming volume to read, although one has not been, nor may ever be, attacking the cliffs of the Schreckhorn.

To the first-class climber the book is useful, and to the moderate man it is almost invaluable, and even to the ordinary tourist doing a fortnight in "The Playground of Europe" it has much that will help and guide. From the more important centres, series of walks and easy climbs are described with precision and in detail. Yes, the book is one that should be in the hands of all who leave our shores for Switzerland, and it will be found to be a more amusing, and only slightly less exhaustive, guide than Karl Baedeker! Mr. Abraham's photographs are, as usual, one of the features of his book.