

ALPINE GUIDE HAS NO CARE

The Hardy Climber Risks Health, Strength and Often Life in His Odd Pursuit.

The Alpine guide frequently risks his health, strength, even his life for persons who may have been themselves the cause of the peril encountered. The qualities of a first-class guide, says the author of "Adventures on the Roof of the World," include not only skill in climbing, but the ability to form sound conclusions in moments of danger. A certain climber tells an anecdote which bears on the importance of the guide's powers of judgment.

A member of the Alpine club was ascending a peak in company with an Oberland guide. Part of their course lay over a snow-field which sank gradually on one side, sharply ended by a precipice on the other. The two were walking along not far from the edge of this precipice when the Englishman, thinking that an easier path might be made by going still nearer the edge, dragged a little from his companion's track. To his surprise, the guide immediately caught hold of him and pulled him back with more vigor than ceremony, although throwing him down in the operation. Wrathful, and not inclined to return the compliment, the Englishman remonstrated. The guide's only answer was to point to a small crack, apparently like scores of other cracks in the neve, which ran for some distance parallel to the edge of the precipice.

The traveler was not satisfied, but he was too wise a man to argue while a desired summit was still some distance above him. On the descent, when the scene of the morning's incident was reached, the guide pointed to the crack, which had grown perceptibly wider.

"This marks," he said, "the place where the true snow-field ends. I feel certain that the ice from here to the edge is nothing but an unsupported cornice hanging over the tremendous precipice below. It might possibly have borne your weight, though I don't think it would." Thereupon he struck the neve on the farther side of the ice sharply with his ax. A huge mass immediately broke away, and went roaring down the cliff.

The traveler was full of amazement and admiration, and thought how there, on an easy mountain and in smiling weather, he had been very near to making himself into an avalanche.

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The new Cornell dam, near Croton, in Westchester county, New York, the largest piece of masonry in the world with the exception of the pyramids of Egypt, is now practically completed, after ten years' labor. The flood gates were shut down for the first time to day, and it began filling with water. It is estimated by engineers that it will require about two years for the dam to fill, and when the water reaches the base of the coping it will make a lake sixteen miles long and about seventy miles in circumference. For the first year the principle supply of water will come from the overflow of the old Croton dam. The old dam will then be flooded and the water will rise thirty feet above it. The dam will hold 30,000,000,000 gallons of water.

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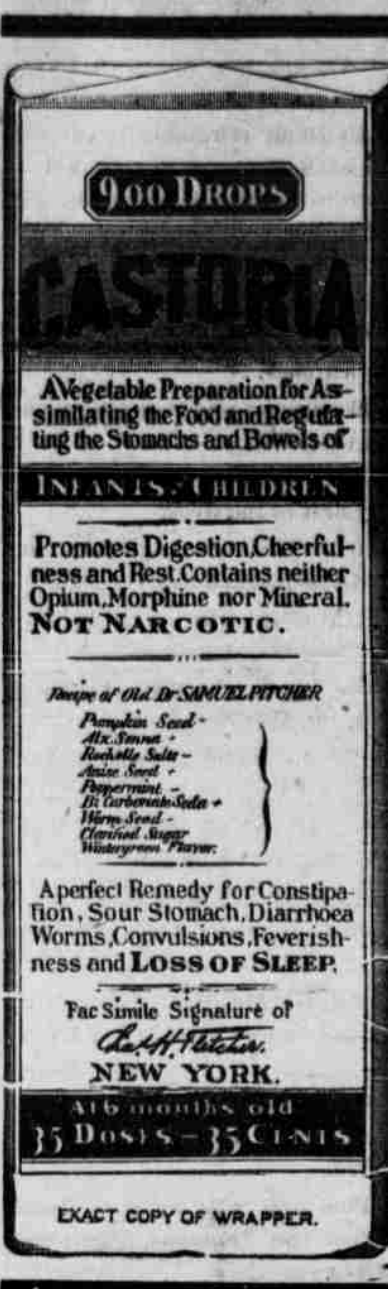
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