

point of the caravan routes between Egypt, Syria and Southern Arabia—owed its traditional foundation to Minos, and continued down to Roman times to worship the Cretan Zeus. The great cave on Mount Dicta, which was the legendary scene of the infancy of this indigenous divinity, to whom, as we have seen, the Palace of Knossos was also consecrated, has now been thoroughly explored by Mr. Hogarth, and has produced a vast mass of votive relics illustrating the prehistoric culture of Crete from the earliest Metal Age onwards. The crevices of the stalactite columns of the lower part of the cave were found to have been utilised for the insertion of bronze offerings, especially miniature figures of the double axe, which was the particular symbol of this God. Many stone libation tables were also found representing the adaptation of early Egyptian forms, and among the votive bronzes an Egyptian figure of the god Amon Ra, whose personality presents some points of affinity to the chief Cretan God. Another bronze from this site, a miniature chariot, drawn by an ox and a ram, has a special interest as an early example of a series of votive bronzes on wheels, in the shape of cars and tripods, supporting bowls, birds and other objects, which form a feature in the remains of a wide European zone during the Late Bronze and Early Iron Age. That their ultimate source was Egypt appears probable from the four-wheeled car with the silver boat of Queen Aah-hotep; but here again we see among Cretan remains what is probably the earliest European example of the class. Once more the archaeological phenomena bring home to us the fact that we stand here at the meeting-place of the North and South wind.

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*THE ASCENT OF MOUNT ST. ELIAS  
(ALASKA).<sup>1</sup>*

THE Italian original of this work was reviewed in our columns a short time ago (see NATURE, May 3), and we now welcome the English translation. In the preface we are informed that "the whole profit on the sale of the Italian edition, together with all royalties and rights on foreign editions, will be dedicated to an Insurance Fund for Italian Guides."

In its present garb the story of the expedition is told in simple and straightforward language, with only here and there an unaccustomed term to show its foreign origin; e.g. "In September snow-storms continue almost

<sup>1</sup> "The Ascent of Mount St. Elias (Alaska)." By H.R.H. Prince Luigi Amedeo di Savoia, Duke of the Abruzzi; narrated by Filippo de Filippi; illustrated by Vittorio Sella; and translated by Signora Linda Villari with the author's supervision. Pp. xii + 241. 34 photogravure plates, 4 panoramic views, and 117 illustrations in text. (Westminster: Archibald Constable and Co., 1900.)

without cease" (p. ix.), and (in reference to rock-systems) "the different components of the soil of South Alaska are all stratified" (p. 232). The picturesque passages in the descriptions of the scenery have, however, lost their glow and read somewhat flat, as indeed can scarcely be avoided in a close translation. The distinctiveness of Prof. Israel C. Russell's name seems lost under the unfamiliar initials J. C., which are used throughout the book (except in the appendix, p. 232), although the full name is given correctly on p. 3. Considering the high estimation in which the citizens of San Francisco hold their business energy, it is rather amusing to read Dr. Filippi's impression that their city "being an agricultural centre, is very quiet and exempt from the feverish turmoil of the industrial Eastern States" (pp. 9-10).

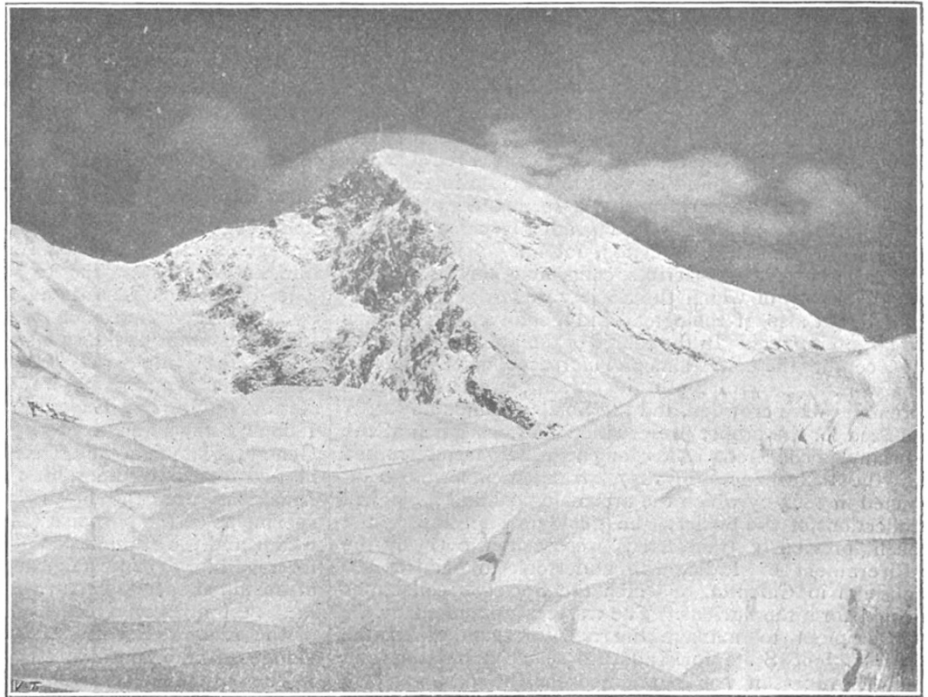


FIG. 1.—Mount St. Elias from the third New t on Cascade.

The profuse illustrations of the original are all reproduced; and in other respects this English edition is almost, but not quite, as sumptuous as its Italian forerunner. In fact so handsome is it, that in spite of the great mountaineering achievement which it chronicles, one cannot help harbouring, like a well-known essayist under similar circumstances, a lurking desire to strip it of its fine coat to re-clothe some ragged veteran of greater intrinsic consequence. G. W. L.

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BY the death, on August 15, of Dr. John Anderson, in his sixty-seventh year, a serious loss has been inflicted on zoological science. Amongst the zoologists of this and other countries, Dr. Anderson was widely known and warmly esteemed. The particular branch of inquiry to which for many years before his death he had devoted himself, the investigation of the Vertebrata of Egypt, could only be successfully carried on by a naturalist who, in addition to experience in collecting, had both time and funds at his command, and who also possessed sufficient energy and tact to ensure the