

WILLIAM A. BAILLIE-GROHMAN.

By the death of Mr. W. A. Baillie-Grohman the Alpine Club loses one of its most outstanding personalities. His father, who resided largely in England and was a great sportsman, owned St. Wolfgang Castle and another equally fine estate in Austria. His mother was a cousin of the Duke of Wellington. The boy went to school in England, but of course spent much time in Austria, where his family were in close relation with the Austrian Court. One of his earliest recollections was of sitting on the knees of the youthful and beautiful Empress Elizabeth. He took to climbing from childhood as a duck takes to water, and at the age of six escaped from confinement by what appeared to be a perilous rock-climb. He was likewise a great swimmer. Between 1871 and 1876 he climbed most of the Tyrolese mountains, making the first winter ascent of the Gross Glockner in 1875. He never kept any record of his climbs, and the same is unfortunately true of what he did in the Rocky Mountains and the Selkirks, in which region he spent a large part of his time during eighteen years. It was said that the mountain named after him in the Kootenay district was so called because it was the only peak thereabouts which he had not climbed. After his father's death his mother purchased the beautiful and historic castle of Matzen, which he in turn inherited from her. It is a castle with a tower of Roman foundation, and containing work of many ages. It is situated overlooking the ancient highway between Italy and the north, over the Brenner and down the valley of the Inn. From 1893 onward this was his home and one of his main interests. It became filled with well-selected and rare examples of mediæval furniture and works of art. Tyrol, thenceforward, was the scene of his sporting exploits and the subject of his historical research.

He was always an enthusiastic sportsman as well as a great traveller. Alike in the Rockies and the Alps he pursued every variety of game, preferably in the most difficult country. It must have been a disappointment to him when failing health closed his bag of chamois at the number of five hundred and ninety-nine. Just one more would have been such a satisfactory trophy. But Baillie-Grohman was much more than a sportsman. He not only loved the mountains, but he loved the country out of which they rise and the people inhabiting it. His presence in any neighbourhood was beneficent to the peasantry, by whom he was always greatly beloved. His last years were spent in the attempt to relieve the distress among the Tyrolese resulting from the war, and his labours in that direction no doubt shortened his life. One of his many interests was the history of sport; he collected upward of four thousand books and prints illustrating that history. He published several works on the same subject, editing, for example, the Hunting Book of the Emperor Maximilian, and the oldest English book on hunting, 'The Master of Game.' For the latter President Roosevelt wrote an introduction. A common interest united the two men in a close intimacy. A writer in *The Times* cites a letter written by Roosevelt to Baillie-Grohman in which he said: 'When I was in the Kootenay country I heard much of you, often in an exasperating fashion, for I ran across two men who had been out with you and who, whenever I began to make bad weather of it over the slide rock and through down timber, would begin to recite your feats as a walker and a hunter.' Other very interesting books written by Baillie-Grohman were, 'Tyrol and the Tyrolese,' 'Gaddings with a Primitive People,' 'Camps in the Rockies,' 'Sport in the Alps,' 'Fifteen Years' Sport and Life in Western America,' and 'Tyrol, the Land in the Mountains.' These books not only contain excellent adventure and much accurate observation, but in several cases embody considerable historical research. 'Tyrol, the Land in the Mountains' is one of the best books ever written on that interesting country, and deserves a long survival. No traveller in Tyrol should fail to read it. It opens the doors of *Schloss* and cottage, and makes the past and its people vividly alive. Baillie-Grohman possessed what I can best describe as a massive personality, full of energy, originality, and enterprise. He was little influenced by the opinion of others, though much by their reason. He abhorred society, and loved his many friends. With them he abounded in interesting talk, wide reminiscence, freedom from prejudice, and quick understanding. He was tenacious in his own opinion, determined in conduct, but charitable to others, and warmed by a thoroughly kind heart. Alike in intellect and heart, he was a