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Memorial to Sir Clements Markham

Source: *The Geographical Journal*, Vol. 58, No. 3 (Sep., 1921), pp. 226-227

Published by: Blackwell Publishing on behalf of The Royal Geographical Society (with the Institute of British Geographers)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1780491>

Accessed: 21/12/2009 08:42

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23,000-foot peak above their camp, as a training excursion for the coolies. The north-western face of Mount Everest has an almost sheer cliff of 10,000 feet to the head of the valley, with difficult rock below the summit of the peak : so that even if the cliffs could be turned, the north-western face did not appear promising. About the end of July Colonel Howard-Bury proposed to move his base to Kharta and reconnoitre the north-eastern and eastern faces, which seem to be less steep, with more snow.

While the topography of the whole region remains very obscure, the cablegrams from the chief of the Expedition picture to us a land far from inhospitable, with large monasteries and villages hitherto unknown ; valleys with soft grass and bubbling springs ; hermits and nuns in cells or caves under the very precipices of the mountain ; wild animals and birds coming to feed from the hand. In this idyllic place the mountain party—sadly reduced by the death of Dr. Kellas and the illness of Mr. Raeburn—have found themselves facing 10,000-foot precipices which bar the way. How greatly will they on their return regret that the painter and the poet could not this year be added to the strength of the party !

Colonel Howard-Bury reports that up to July 7 the weather had been very favourable for the reconnaissance and for the surveys. The following week gave hail and rain, with snow at the higher camps, but by the end of July the north-west face of the mountain would have been sufficiently explored.

We have every reason to congratulate the Chief of the Expedition on his excellent progress in spite of unexpected difficulties. The 300 miles from Darjeeling to Tingri was covered in thirty days, which included several of enforced delay. No time was lost in getting to work from Tingri. The mountain party were at the base of the mountain well before the end of June. By July 16 the surveyors had mapped 6500 square miles of country ; the photographic and geological surveys were well in hand ; the natural history collections abundant ; the despatch of photographs from the expedition already well begun. All promises well for a highly successful first season, even though it is already clear that the mountain will not disappoint the mountaineers by proving unexpectedly easy.

MEMORIAL TO SIR CLEMENTS MARKHAM

THE Peruvian Government did a signal honour to Sir Clements Markham and to the Society when they asked permission of the Council to erect at the door of the Society's House a Monument to the memory of our distinguished ex-President. The proposal being gratefully accepted, the Peruvian Legation commissioned Mr. F. W. Pomeroy, R.A., to make a bust in bronze, which has been placed on a pedestal of Istrian marble in the bay to the right of the door.

H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, graciously consented to unveil the memorial on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 20, and at the joint invitation of the Peruvian Chargé d'Affaires and of the President of the Society, a distinguished company assembled, including the leading members of the Peruvian Colony in London, representatives of the Markham family, and of Westminster School.

The Peruvian Chargé d'Affaires, Señor Don Ricardo Rivera Schreiber, speaking in Spanish, expressed in the name of the Government and People of his country their gratitude to Sir Clements Markham as a distinguished writer and geographer, who devoted a great part of his arduous life to the study of Peru and to the history of the Incas. In handing over the monument he declared that his country would never forget the name of Markham, and that in the ancient land of the Incas, which he loved so much, his name would always be mentioned with respect and affection.

Sir Maurice de Bunsen (Foreign Secretary, R.G.S.), replying in Spanish, thanked the Chargé d'Affaires for the happy and friendly terms in which he had expressed, on behalf of the Peruvian Government and People, their fidelity to the memory of Sir Clements Markham.

The President then asked the Princess Louise to unveil the Memorial, which had been covered with the flag of the *Discovery* that is preserved in the Society's Museum; and afterwards expressed to Her Royal Highness the thanks of the Society and of the Peruvian Government for her kindness in performing the ceremony.

The sculptor is to be congratulated on his success in deriving, from very insufficient material, a very satisfactory likeness of Sir Clements Markham. He took much trouble to consult members of the family and many friends of Sir Clements, and could hardly have succeeded better in the always difficult task of making a posthumous portrait.

The inscription on the pedestal, below a badge with arms of Peru, reads thus:

This Monument to the Memory of
SIR CLEMENTS MARKHAM,
K.C.B., F.R.S., & for 12 years President of the
Royal Geographical Society
was erected in the year 1921
by the PERUVIAN NATION
in Gratitude for his Services
as Historian of their Country.

A Society skilled in Cartography is especially critical of lettering. After much discussion, a monument in Westminster Abbey, of date 1786, was chosen as a model of what the lettering should be. Mr. J. H. Reynolds very kindly lent a rubbing of that inscription, and the mason has been very successful in cutting an especially pure and beautiful type.