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AN ACCOUNT OF THE FATAL ACCIDENT ON TRYFÂN.

By J. M. A. THOMSON, A.C.

ON Monday, July 31st, J. Longley and E. W. W. Palmer, aged 28, both of Clapham, London, walked up the Pass from Bethesda and lunched at Ogwen. They then started for Pen-y-gwryd. Mr. Jones, of Ogwen Cottage, recommended the route by the Devil's Kitchen and Cwm Patric. The tourists, however, who were provided with a guide-book, evidently decided upon the equally easy route over Col Tryfân and along the cairned track down the slopes of the Glydr Fach. The weather was fine enough, but the party had never been on a mountain before, and so, while "wanting to cross the Glydr Mountains by an easy path, they went on to Tryfân instead, which is another mountain." On their way they encountered difficulties greater than they had anticipated—such that, had they known of them before, would have prevented their taking this course.

However, in due time they reached the summit, and believed themselves to be on the top of the Glydr Fach. As Mr. Palmer "knew the direction of Pen-y-gwryd, they went down the other side." It is plain the party could not have struck down the east face from the summit, for they could not have descended the North or the South Gully, or the face between them. It seems probable that they descended towards the Col, or, possibly, down the North ridge, and then turned on to the east face. In the course of the descent Mr. Longley, who was ahead, and was trying to work down some grass which gave way, slipped and fell down about 20 yards. With the exception of a slight injury to the knee he was unhurt, but severely shaken, and felt unable to get

back to his companion. As descent from this point was deemed impossible, it was decided that Mr. Palmer should re-ascend to the summit, retrace his steps to Ogwen, and return with assistance, and he set forth accordingly. Considering the lateness of the hour, 7'15 p.m., and the probable pace of the traveller, it is plain that this task could not have been accomplished that night. Meanwhile, after resting for a quarter of an hour, Mr. Longley extricated himself from his difficulties by a simple method. He "got away by going down and striking the Capel Curig Road," and reached Ogwen before 9 p.m. The absence of his friend did not at first alarm him, as he believed that he had remained in one of the caves for the night, but on the morrow he grew anxious, and spent the morning in a fruitless endeavour to find a companion to assist him in making a search. He lunched at 12 o'clock, and then started by himself. He tried to reach the summit, but seeing a storm approaching, and feeling, moreover, pain in the knee, he returned about 5 p.m., but a Mr. Evans, whom he met on the way down, continued the search till 9 p.m., without discovering any trace of the missing man. The police were informed at 8 a.m. on Wednesday. A search party went up, accompanied by Mr. Longley, who identified the spot where he had last seen his friend, yet no trace of him was found. On Thursday another party, including Sergeant Owen, the police constable of Bethesda, and D. Pritchard of the Bull Inn, started from Ogwen at 11'50 a.m., and discovered the body of the unfortunate man at 2'15 p.m., lying in a gully, with the left arm and right leg fractured, and with a wound in the forehead which showed that death must have been instantaneous. His watch had stopped at 7'45. The gully in question runs from the lower slopes to the horizontal grass traverse, upon which the deceased's cap was found. It may therefore have been the beginning of the North gully or one of the ill-defined clefts which lie between it and the line of the Nor' West gully.

At the inquest, held at the Quarry Hospital, no journalists were present, the result being that, in the very meagre notices

of the accident which appeared in the newspapers, an exceptionally high standard of inaccuracy was attained. I am indebted to Mr. A. Bodvel-Roberts, Deputy Coroner of Carnarvon, for his kindness and courtesy in furnishing me with a copy of the evidence taken at the inquest.