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The goal of man's ambition is aloft
As mountains tower amid the pristine snow,
But all his efforts crumble into dust
The end of life's grim struggle is below.

Here in a hallowed acre rest serene
The last poor remnants of the village caste.
Some in the alpine story won their fame.
Some left no record from the years now past.

Here on the tombstones eloquent yet mute
We see a title "mountain guide" portrayed.
It tells of those who as their lot pursued
Mid snow and ice their honourable trade.

They in their prime sought evanescent fame
On pinnacles all pointing to the sky.
In chastened mood we see their graves below
Their lot was humble yet their aim was high.

Here in a corner in the shade we see
In sombre contrast to the vivid scene
A brazen figure eloquent and chaste
Of some fair lady, once a village queen.

She did not reach her three-score years and ten
And gone was all the energy of youth.
At sixty years she reached the golden age
Of mellowed wisdom seeking nought but truth.

Her face looks upward to beloved hills
Bringing God's solace to a worthy soul.
What does she dream of in her calm repose?
What golden memory captivates the whole?

A scene so lovely, peaceful, and serene
Brings us to earth however high we trod.
We leave it in the sure and certain faith
The souls of the righteous are in the hand of GOD.

And when to busy mart and frenzied street
Our sluggish footsteps must perforce return
When we see nations wrangling in the heat
Of soulless passions that within them burn,

When reason is forgotten or despised
And grim dictators leave it all behind,
When our own petty troubles intervene
And leave us fretful, bitter, and unkind,

When all these evils seem to have no end
The wonders of creation never cease.
The benison of heaven still gently falls
And gilds our memory of this vale of peace.

So when our major worries press us sore
And lesser evils give their lesser bane
In retrospect we see those scenes once more
And in the beauty can forget the pain.

J. E. CHRISTOPHER.

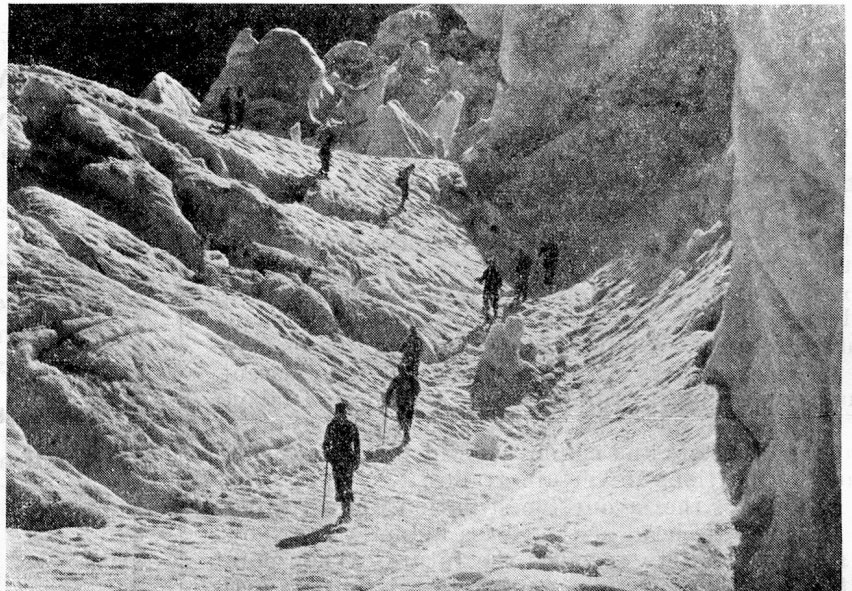
OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, August 17th, 1951. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: J. Sieber, A. Hinderling, G. Engesser, J. F. J. Ammann, Mrs. J. Downing, A. C. Kaelin, Mrs. Th. Schaerer, A. Rueff.

Good News from Switzerland

To encourage Mountain Climbing, the Swiss Government has decided to reduce from 15th July to 30th September 1951 the Official Guides' Tariffs by 30%.

We invite you and your English friends to take full advantage of this concession.



SWITZERLAND—THE CLIMBERS' PARADISE

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