

had seen the bodies, but without being able to reach them that day. They proposed to start again on Sunday evening, so as to get near the bodies at daybreak on the following Monday. In my anguish, I decided on re-ascending, on Sunday morning, accompanied by the Rev. Mr. MacCormick. Threatened with excommunication if they were not present at the first mass, the guides of Zermatt could not follow us.

“ I am convinced that several suffered as much as we did ; I judge by the tears of regret with which their eyes were filled. Messrs. Robertson, Phillpols, their guide Frantz Andermatt, Mr. Puller, and the brothers Lochmatter, F. Payot and J. Tairraz, of Chamouni, escorted us. We proceeded on our journey, following the direction which we had taken four days previously. From Hornli we descended to the right of the ridge, and having scaled the moraines of the Matterhorn glacier, arrived at the plateau which terminates the latter, in sight of the angle where we knew the bodies lay.

“ On seeing each of our guides successively direct his telescope towards a certain spot, grow pale, and in silence hand the instrument to his neighbour, we understood that there was no ground for hope. We drew near. My unfortunate companions lay in the order which they had adopted during the descent ; Croz, a little in advance ; Hadow, near him ; and Hudson, a few paces in the rear ; as for Lord Douglas, it was impossible to find him. To my great astonishment, I discovered that they were fastened with the rope of the Alpine Club, or the second in point of strength ; consequently, a considerable portion, that which had extended between Tauggwald and Douglas, was the frailest of all !

“ By order of the Consul d'Etat of the Valais, four days after the event, twenty-one guides were despatched to find and bring back to the village the bodies of our friends. These brave men accomplished the dangerous task with an intrepidity which did them honour.

“ They could discover no trace of Lord Douglas's body, which had probably been arrested in its fall by some projecting rock. No one can deplore his loss more profoundly than myself ; for, though young, he was a skilful mountaineer ; danger, for him, had ceased to exist.

“ I remained at Zermatt until the 22nd of July, to assist in the inquiry instituted by the government.

“ Such, sir,” says Mr. Whymper, in concluding his letter to the editor of the *Times*, “ such is the sad story I have to tell. A simple slip, or a single false step, has been the cause of a misfortune which I can never forget. I will add one word. If the rope had not been broken, you would not have received this letter, for we should not have had sufficient strength to counterbalance the weight of four men, all falling simultaneously.

“ But I am convinced that no accident would have occurred if the rope which tied Tauggwald to the last of our friends had been taut like that which fastened the guide to myself. The rope is a great assistance ; but it should never form a coil ; for if a person falls or slips, his descent gradually acquires a momentum which it is difficult to resist.”